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Happy Thanksgiving!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Where do you intend to spend Thanksgiving this year?

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INSIDE



Leaner Turkeys

On this Thanksgiving Day since the economy sank, Americans are scaling back.

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Give Thanks

Count your blessings this Thanksgiving. It's good for you.

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Cabrera is 2012 Teacher of the Year



By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's 12th grade teacher Jonathan P. Cabrera was named the CNMI Teacher of the Year for school year 2012, besting 18 other outstanding classroom public school teachers. He will represent the CNMI Public School System in the national teacher of the year competition next year.

The State Board of Education led by PSS chair Marylou Ada, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, acting governor Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (MP-Ind), and the PSS leadership team made a special trip yesterday morning

See CABRERA on Page 4

The 2012 CNMI Teacher of the Year Jonathan Cabrera, center, is flanked by education officials and dignitaries during the surprise awarding rites at the Saipan Southern High School campus yesterday morning. Inset shows Cabrera being surrounded by his students as they cheer and dance for him upon being named as the recipient of the prestigious award yesterday morning.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Shrinking CNMI economy forces leaner Thanksgiving celebrations

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

With a tanking economy that's deeply hurting everyone's wallets, residents make do with the limited food they could afford and thankful that the CNMI is still a relatively safe place to live with their family and friends.

» Residents, government still have things to be thankful for

"We don't spend as much on holidays like this now because we also have to pay for high utility bills, for example. We really budget everything, but yes we always have turkey," said former Emergency Management Office director Rudy Pua in an interview at the Joeten-Susupe store yesterday afternoon.

See SHRINKING on Page 4

A bittersweet Thanksgiving

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

For nonresidents who have spent most of their adult lives in the CNMI and where they have raised their children, this year's Thanksgiving holiday is more about finding a new job and hoping that their parole request will be granted to be able to continue their lawful stay in the Commonwealth.

Florentina Duroi, 52, said she's hoping that her request for

See THANKSGIVING on Page 4

» 'Illegal' aliens try their luck with parole request



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Local

Shell follows Mobil's 5-cent price cut

On the eve of Thanksgiving, Shell Marianas followed Mobil's 5-cent a gallon price reduction.

The pump prices of Shell's regular and V-Power or super unleaded gasoline went down

yesterday afternoon, a day after Mobil reduced its prices.

Shell and Mobil's regular unleaded gasoline is now \$4.709 a gallon, down from \$4.759 a gallon.

Super unleaded gasoline is

now \$5.029 a gallon at Shell and Mobil service stations, down from \$5.079 a gallon.

Diesel at Shell and Mobil remains at \$5.219 a gallon.

Ian Benavente, a Chalan Kanoa resident, said the 5-cent

a gallon drop in prices is something to be thankful for.

"As long as the prices go down, I'm happy," he said, as he pumped \$35 worth of gasoline in his vehicle at the Shell-Susupe station yesterday afternoon. He said the \$35 gas will last him some

four days.

Manny Vitug, who put \$25 gas in his vehicle, said he was supposed to go to Mobil but when he saw that Shell also reduced its prices yesterday afternoon, he decided to gas up at Shell instead because of an ongoing promotion he wanted

to avail of.

"Thanks a lot that it went down, even if it's only 5 cents. I hope the prices will continue to go down," he added.

Saipan motorists last saw a pump price change in July—a 10-cent a gallon increase. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

PSS to look for more federal grants for new middle school

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan said yesterday that the Public School System will closely work with the Executive Branch and the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan to secure needed funding for the planned

Koblerville Junior High School.

This comes after the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board said that it cannot source the \$8 million needed for the project from its community development block grant. Each fiscal year, NMHC receives about \$800,000 in CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Hous-

ing and Urban Development. The housing corporation earlier committed to allot three years of these CDBG grants for the new middle school—the total would reach only over \$2 million.

Commissioner Sablan said yesterday that PSS will do its best to make the project a reality for Commonwealth students.

"We're very hopeful that it's going to materialize. It's a vision of the Board of Education and both the Executive Branch and Congressman Kilili are supportive of this great venture. So we're going to work with them to secure the needed funding. A new middle school is very much needed in the Commonwealth, especially on Saipan," she said, but cannot say what federal monies may be

tapped for the project.

Commissioner Sablan, along with education and board officials, yesterday showed acting governor Eloy Inos and Delegate Sablan the property acquired by the government for the project. The property is situated at the back of Koblerville

Elementary School.

PSS reportedly wants to construct 10 buildings on the lot: four classroom buildings with 27 classrooms, a cafeteria, a library, a vocational building, a horticulture building, a music building, and a water storage tank.

See PSS on Next Page

Thankful for all our blessings.

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Police arrest suspect in brazen Garapan robbery

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Police arrested Tuesday night the suspect in last week's robbery during which a female Japanese tourist was dragged several meters by a car when she chased the man who had grabbed her bag along Beach Road, Garapan.

Police served the arrest warrant on 35-year-old Gustavo Ybanez Jr. in San Vicente at 7:47pm on charges of robbery, theft, and disturbing the peace.

His bail was initially set at \$100,000 cash but this was later reduced to \$25,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 1, 2011, at 9am.

As part of his bail conditions, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman prohibited Ybanez from traveling along Beach Road, Garapan and ordered him to stay away from any hotel or tourist site.

The robbery occurred on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 8:45pm, in front of the Bobby Cadillacs Restaurant in western Garapan.

Police reports state that when

officers arrived at the scene, paramedics were already treating the victim, Miki Takamatsu, who had bruises and scratches on her left arm, fingers, and right knee.

Police investigation showed that Takamatsu and her boyfriend were walking on the pathway near Bobby Cadillacs when a man came from behind and grabbed her purse. The man ran toward a dark silver Nissan Pathfinder and entered the front passenger's door.

Takamatsu chased the man and held on to the rear passenger door, but the vehicle sped off. Takamatsu fell to the ground and her left arm got ran over by the vehicle's tire.

A witness told police that she saw the female tourist chase a man who got into the front passenger door of an SUV that was parked by the roadway.

The witness said the female tourist held on to the right rear passenger door, but the SUV took off at high speed, dragging the victim on the road.

Another witness said the victim was dragged about 10 feet

when the getaway vehicle—a Nissan Pathfinder—sped off.

Detective Raymond B. Borja stated in his report that on Nov. 17 he learned from detective Roque K. Camacho that there is an ongoing investigation about a group that has been stealing beer from several stores.

In one of the cases, Borja said a surveillance footage showed a man, later identified as Ybanez, whose descriptions matched the Garapan robbery suspect, with another man who ran away from a store with a case of beer. The suspect got into a dark color new model Nissan Pathfinder and drove off.

Borja said that, on Tuesday, Nov. 22, he and another detective showed a photo lineup to one of the witnesses in the Garapan robbery.

Borja said the witness pointed to Ybanez's photo and claimed she is 100 percent positive he was the one who robbed the tourist.

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PSS

From Page 2

"As far as building the facility, we want to make sure that we're not only developing a standard classroom but we want it appropriate in terms of preparing students for 21st century learning skills," according to the commissioner.

PSS earlier said that its operational expense will not increase because the teachers and school support will move with the students from Hopwood to Koblerville Junior High School. The new middle school will also be largely energy self-sufficient based upon the \$4-million alternative energy investment that was installed at Saipan Southern High School.

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Thanksgiving specials make the holiday prudent yet meaningful

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

In the face of personal hardships and tough economic times, the CNMI still has reasons to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. A more prudent yet meaningful celebration with families and friends can still be had without denting the pocket.

Avail of Thanksgiving specials at Triple J Super Fresh Market such as reasonably priced Butterball turkeys, Gusto ham bone in, Certified Angus Beef Rib Eye Bone In and Sirloin Tip Roast and Tyson Chicken Legs.

Affordable goods are also offered at Twins Supermarket in Dandan and Lower Navy Hill. You can receive a free gift, too, when you make a \$50 purchase at any of their locations.

Get the perfect Thanksgiving getup at Fashion Clicks Boutique at the Island Apparel Building in Puerto Rico. The store is giving away a 50-percent discount on selected items.

Preparing the ideal Thanksgiving feast can be a little stressful, so families can choose from many restaurants that are serving up special holiday menus.

The Taste of India offers a lunch buffet for only \$9.99, vegetarian buffet for \$8, and dinner buffet for just \$15. For reservations, call 234-8448.

Order traditional Thanksgiving fare like turkey, house-smoked ham leg, Certified Angus Beef prime beef, sides, and sweet treats from Hyatt Regency Saipan. They offer 15-percent discount to Club at the Hyatt members. To place an order, call 234-1234 Ext. 34.

Aqua Resort Club's Thanksgiving buffet is only \$30 per adult and \$15 per child. There will be live entertainment and a chance to win gifts from the raffle draw. Twenty-percent discount is available for local residents. On sale and display at Aqua are Carmela's Orchids & Ornamental Plants and Tokie Mojica's Marshall Islands Handicraft. Call 322-1234 Ext. 731 for details.

Make the holiday special at Fiesta Resort & Spa's World Café with traditional fare like turkey, roast beef, assorted sushi and more in their Thanksgiving brunch. The \$25 rate includes bottomless champagne, wines, beer, sodas, and juices. For reservations, call 233-6414 or 234-7171 Ext. 1547 or 1548.

Whet your appetite at Aoi Restaurant's Thanksgiving Brunch with pork lechon, ham leg, turkey, oysters, smoked salmon, sashimi, and many more. Local desserts and bottomless champagne, draft beer, juice, and iced tea are included for only \$25 per person. Call 234-6601 or 235-6616 for information.

eten-Hafa Adai Deli Bakery, said they have received a lot of orders for turkey with stuffing and gravy.

"I think we received more orders this year than the last two years. The volume of orders for turkey we have this year is much like what we had 10 years ago," she said as she monitors the orders received.

Escarlan, who has been with the company since 1992, said the cost of a 12- to 14-lb turkey with stuffing, gravy, dinner rolls, cherry strawberry bread and pumpkin pie, priced at \$42.50, is actually less expensive by a few cents compared to last year.

"We want people to still celebrate Thanksgiving with the traditional turkey so the prices went down," she said.

Corrections officer Carlo Evangelista said their Thanksgiving expenses went up by some 10 percent, but he said they won't let it dampen their celebration.

"I am thankful for my family and job," he said at the signing of a proclamation yesterday on Capital Hill declaring December 2011 CNMI Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in their joint Thanksgiving message, said, "Having faced the challenges and opportunities of the past year, it is time to give thanks for all the blessings we have received."

"As we come together with friends and family, let us remember to give thanks throughout the year for the good fortunes and freedoms we enjoy," they said. "And let us not forget those who are less fortunate here and afar. To all the residents of the CNMI, we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving."

Inos, in an interview with reporters, said despite the financial challenges, the CNMI is thankful for the relatively peaceful island environment compared to other areas where there is civil unrest. "I'm thankful for the many things that the community has done despite the many challenges" he said.

He said the \$102-million budget for fiscal year 2012 stays, and is hoping that actual revenue will be higher than projected.

Go where the food is great and the fun never ends at Pacific Islands Club's The Magellan or Seaside Grill for brunch and dinner. Avail of brunch and waterpark promo for only \$30 per adult and \$25 per child 4 to 11 years old. For reservations, call 237-5172.

McDonald's Saipan will have its own special promo this Thanksgiving. Daily Dollar Menu includes sausage biscuit sandwich, hash brown, and apple pie. Get a free Angus Snack Wrap when you buy one with any size soft-drink. Get a free sausage biscuit with

egg sandwich when you buy the sausage biscuit with egg meal.

Indulge your sweet tooth at Marg's Kitchen and avail of the \$8 special price for pumpkin pie. Other delightful

desserts like sweet potato pie, peanut butter chocolate cake, pumpkin roll, snow cake, key lime pie, and strawberry swirl cheese cake are also available. For orders, call 234-3706.



Happy birthday to Annie "Nun" Cangco, who is celebrating her special day today Nov. 24. You are truly a great friend and we wish you many more birthdays to come. Gobble, gobble all the way with Mr. Turkey, for you two have the same day of celebration! Shout out coming out from your friends and family.

THANKSGIVING

From Page 1

parole will be granted so she won't be separated from her three U.S. citizen children aged 10 to 16. She came to Saipan in 1989 as a house worker earning \$2.75 an hour. Now jobless, she said she's been trying to look for a new employer to help her partner raise their three children.

She said she filed her parole request on Oct. 28 and is still waiting for a response from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"All this time, I've been worried whether USCIS will grant my parole request. If I don't get my parole, I could lose my status and I would be separated from my children. They all said they don't want to leave Saipan; they said this is their birthplace," she said.

Duroni is one of those hoping for the passage of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's H.R. 1466, which seeks a CNMI-only resident status for four groups of aliens, including parents of U.S. citizen children.

Baltazar De Leon, 55, lined up yesterday at the post office in Chalan Kanoa to mail his parole request with USCIS.

He said he needs to be paroled so he could continue to have lawful status in the CNMI until he completes his application for "green card." He said his 24-year-old U.S. citizen daughter is pe-

titioning him for one.

Another nonresident who asked that he be identified only by his initials "J.S.R." said his current employer has just advertised his position to see whether there are qualified U.S. workers. He said the whole advertising process will take 10 or more days, so a Commonwealth-only worker petition won't be filed until after Nov. 27 or 28.

"So that means I have to stop working because the petition will be filed after the deadline. But at least I will have parole so that I won't become illegal when I have an employer," said the 49-year-old electrician who came to Saipan in 1987.

Rodolfo Francisco, 51, said he's seeking humanitarian parole while he continues to look for a job. He said his former employer still owes him some \$25,000 in back wages, penalties, and interests.

Md. Abdul Matin, from Bangladesh, lined up to mail a CW petition that his employer prepared. "My employer processed this but it's only now that I'm sending it," said Matin, who expects to be done with the mailing at 2pm, after lining up at 10:30am.

Overstayers

Even those who are aware that they are considered "overstayer" or illegally staying in the CNMI are trying their luck by applying for humanitarian parole.

A handful of Chinese nationals who

came to Saipan as tourists and now have U.S. citizen children were preparing parole requests to be mailed to USCIS.

A 63-year-old nonresident from the Philippines, who came to Saipan in 1988 to work as a mason/carpenter, said yesterday that he lost his full-time job in 2000. He said he does not have an umbrella permit.

He was writing a parole request yesterday, hoping USCIS would grant him parole and consider the fact that there's an employer willing to file a CW petition for him.

"If I don't get it, I may just have to go home," he said.

The bigger question

USCIS district director David Gulick said there's no restriction on filing for parole if one is present without admission. But the real question is whether this parole request will be granted.

"It's an individual, case by case basis. They would have to show exceptional circumstances to warrant parole," he said.

But for those considered illegally staying in the CNMI, the chance of being granted parole if they request it, diminishes.

The worker regulations require that employers employ only those lawfully present in the CNMI if they are hired from here.

Tourists are not qualified to apply for parole.

CABRERA

From Page 1

to the SSHS campus to personally present the prestigious award to Cabrera.

Expressing himself surprised and humbled by the recognition, Cabrera dedicated the award to his fellow Teacher of the Year nominees and his students.

"I am profoundly humbled by the honor bestowed upon me by the selection committee and I am really happy. It's a good day for SSHS and a good day for the entire PSS. I congratulate other TOYs and this award is also for them," he said.

In his message to students, Cabrera said: "To my former, current, and future students, this is what I have to say: I believe in you, I believe in your future, I believe in your greatness, and I believe in your dreams."

SSHS students cheered as Cabrera accepted plaques of recognition from both the Education Board and Delegate Sablan. Students also offered him flowers, gifts, and mwars.

As the CNMI's most outstanding teacher, Cabrera will have the opportunity to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama in April next year during the traditional national teachers' convention.

Commissioner Sablan said the Teacher of the Year will also participate in several activities at the national level such as the space camp and other conferences sponsored by the national organization. Sablan said she will join Cabrera when he meets with the U.S. President in April 2012.

"I am excited for this journey. I look forward to meeting other states' TOYs and hopeful that everything I will learn over the next year I can bring back to the CNMI and help enhance our profession," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to SSHS principal Jesse Tudela, Cabrera is the second Manta Ray teacher to win the statewide TOY award. Andrew Golden first bagged the recognition in 2007; he also competed at the national level.

Tudela feels that he, along with the entire Manta Ray family, are the big winners in this Education Month's celebration. He said Cabrera truly deserves the honor and credited him for the success and achievement of SSHS this school year, including the offering of advanced placement courses and its accreditation works.

Cabrera, 27, is the son of Frank and Barbara Cabrera. He obtained his undergraduate degree in English and Theater from the University of Hawaii-Manoa and obtained his master's degree in English from Boston Universi-

ty. As soon as he finished his education, he came back to the island and joined PSS as one of its classroom teachers. Cabrera's teaching career started in 2008 at SSHS, which hailed him as its most outstanding mentor this school year—his first.

Cabrera, who mentors close to a hundred students in three classes each day, shared that teaching has been his ultimate dream since his younger years. He always admired his teachers and developed from there a great admiration and respect for them.

"Every year, my goal is to become a better teacher. Even though I was selected TOY, I don't think that I've reached the pinnacle of my success as an educator. I want to become better every year because at the end of the day, if I become better my students will learn better, they will achieve more, and they will be ready to go out and get their degrees. I hope they will come back to serve our community," he earlier told *Saipan Tribune*.

Winners in the other categories will be announced later.

As early as 9am yesterday, education officials were gathered at the central office, awaiting the dignitaries who will join them for what PSS calls the traditional Education Day bus ride, when education officials are brought to the winning school aboard a public school bus.

SHRINKING

From Page 1

He said his household has cut their Thanksgiving expenses by 30 percent to 40 percent this year, but that doesn't mean a bit sadder event than previous years.

"The spirit of Thanksgiving is still there, it's just that the kind of spending we had before is not there anymore," he said.

Carmen Gaskins, a Gualo Rai resident, bought some food stuff for a Thanksgiving meal she's preparing to share with some individuals on island whose families are not with them this holiday.

Gaskins said she has noticed that fewer people are shopping for Thanksgiving, pointing to a slow economy.

"Despite the economy, I am first and foremost thankful to God for His gift of love, for allowing me to see things from a brighter perspective," she added.

George Moses, floor supervisor at Joeten-Susupe said they expect more last-minute shoppers Wednesday night or after-office hours. But he said the slow economy could be the main reason for fewer numbers of shoppers than they expected.

"Bad economy or not, we have to celebrate Thanksgiving by giving thanks to everything and everyone. I am thankful to be alive. Everyday is a new day," he said.

Debra C. Johnson, who was doing her last-minute Thanksgiving grocery shopping at Joeten-Hafadai in Garapan, said the Thanksgiving meal has been part of their family custom and this year will be a special one.

"My sister from Hawaii is here to celebrate with us. We haven't seen each other in 15 to 18 years. We have less money to spend but we still have lots to be thankful for," the San Roque resident said.

While residents have less money for other food stuff, the roasted turkey will always be part of their Thanksgiving meal.

Vilma Escarlan, supervisor at the Jo-

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**Samsung
nexus S**
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The Nexus S 4G is the latest CDMA Android smartphone available from Samsung! The Nexus S 4G comes fully loaded with Android 2.3 Gingerbread OS and a 1GHz Processor for an overall quick smartphone experience. The Nexus S 4G also sports a rear front-facing camera.

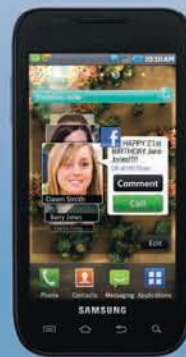
**CASIO G'zOne
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\$299[‡]

This Android 2.2 FROYO CDMA smartphone is notable for its rugged, waterproof design. Other key features include compass, thermometer, pedometer, a high-resolution touch display, and extra-loud speaker. Rounding out the features are a 5-megapixel camera, Wi-Fi with mobile hotspot, EVDO 3G data, and memory card slot.



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This Android smartphone is notable for its large, high-resolution display and 3G EVDO data. Other features include 3-megapixel camera, WiFi, accelerometer, 3.5mm headphone jack, and memory card slot.



**Samsung
Showcase**
\$199[‡]

Part of Samsung's Galaxy S series, this high-end Android smartphone sports a huge 4-inch OLED display, fast 1 GHz processor, and 5-megapixel camera with LED flash and video capture. Other features include Bluetooth 3.0, Wi-Fi with DLNA streaming, and a 3.5mm audio jack.



**htc
EVO™ 3D**
\$299[‡]

This update to the EVO 4G adds 3D screen and camera, including video, plus a faster 3rd-generation dual-core Snapdragon processor. Other features include Android 2.3, HTC's Sense interface, a huge, high-resolution display, and HD video output to TV. Other features include WiFi, memory card slot, and 3.5mm audio jack. The EVO 3D is surely a phone that will blow away the competition!

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CUC disputes \$4M it owes the Fund

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is disputing the amount the NMI Retirement Fund wants to collect as payment for unpaid employer contributions, arguing that a provision of a public law protects the utilities company from any increases in the employer contribution rate.

Under the Fund's calculation, CUC owes the Fund about \$4 million in unpaid contributions. This, according to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, is a big variance from what CUC believes it owes the Fund.

"CUC contends it owes the Fund about \$2.8 million less than what the Fund thinks it's owed. Our position is based on application of Public Law 16-2," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

P.L. 16-2 revises the CUC

utility rate structure to ensure its continuing ability to deliver utility services and to provide the governor flexibility to reprogram funds for fiscal year 2008, among others. A provision in this law also suspended the implementation of the employer rate contribution to some agencies, including CUC.

Warren disclosed that the Fund initially offered to settle the \$4 million unpaid obligation. "Actually, the offer was made by them and declined by CUC," he said.

Fund chair Sixto Igisomar earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the CUC offer is not that easy to be decided but said the board has three options: accept it, decline it, or counter it. "We made the decision to counter their proposal," he had said.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC, in its proposal, cited some differences in how the

Fund determined the total debt of CUC.

The utilities firm cited statutes to justify its argument that the Fund used the "wrong calculation" to come up with its figure. CUC's number, it was learned, only amounts to more than a \$1 million obligation. If the Fund will agree to the amount determined by CUC, the agency will be committed to paying the obligation.

Last May the Fund sued the utilities company for not paying it employer contributions and demanded payment of \$4.44 million, including penalties and damages.

It was earlier reported that CUC is delinquent by some \$3.1 million as of April this year. The Fund is seeking penalty amounting to \$740,462 through end of fiscal year 2010 and economic damages amounting to \$527,716.

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DPS seeks info on car robberies

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on several recent car burglaries.

Last Nov. 18, a white Hyundai four-door sedan had its front passenger window broken and a Kenwood car stereo stolen. The car was parked in the parking lot of Hi Mart in Dandan. The victim parked the car at 10pm the night before and discovered the crime early that morning.

Last Nov. 21, a white 1995 Toyota Camry parked outside Sablan Apartments in Chalan Kanoa, (behind the post office) had its right rear window smashed and the car stereo stolen. The crime occurred

sometime within the early morning hours.

Last Nov. 21, a light green Toyota Camry parked outside an apartment near KL Store in Koblerville was burglarized. The rear left window was broken and a \$40 military stopwatch was stolen. The crime occurred overnight.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmi-crimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. *(Crime Stoppers)*

Coast Guard searches for missing mariner

HONOLULU—A Coast Guard aircrew piloting an HC-130 Hercules is searching for a man aboard a missing seven-foot aluminum skiff in the vicinity of Betio Island, Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati, Tuesday.

Watchstanders in Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu received a request from Rescue Coordination Center Nadi for assistance in searching for the 24-year-old mariner on Sunday.

According to the report, the skiff originally had three persons aboard while out at sea approximately 200 yards off the break wall. Two of the individuals were diving and one was left on the skiff. When

the two divers surfaced, the remaining passenger and skiff were gone. The two divers were able to swim to shore and reported their fellow mariner as missing.

The Hercules aircrew stationed at Air Station Barbers Point was launched from American Samoa Monday and has searched approximately four hours and has covered 1,880 square miles.

To assist in the search, the Coast Guard has also employed the use of two self-locating datum marker buoys. These buoys help by tracking current and drift patterns, which help refine the location of the search area. *(USCG)*

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AMP bookstore has a new manager

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Memorial Park bookstore has a new manager.

Alegria Richardson officially joined the team Monday after senior associate Ghazanfar Chaudhry left for Hawaii following an employment offer with Pearl Harbor Pacific Historic Park.

A native of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro in the Philippines, Richardson is not new to island living, having stayed in Guam less than a year before moving to Palau where she stayed for 10 years and managed a company that deals with diving and underwater photography.

After her stint in Palau, Richardson and her husband,

assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, moved to Austin, Texas where she worked at One West Bank as a certified underwriter before relocating to Saipan in October.

"This is my first time on Saipan and it's like a mini-Palau and Guam. Everything is in here and you have beautiful waters," Richardson told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

Richardson disclosed that she got interviewed for the job on Saturday and signed her papers on Sunday.

While still learning the 2012 marketing plan that her predecessor has prepared, Richard-

son noted that the economic downturn would not make it easy for her to accomplish her role as bookstore manager for one of the Pacific Historic Parks' national parks.

"I think it would be a great challenge for me to...market the business," she said.

Richardson plans to work with the private sector, including tour companies and hotels, to gain more knowledge and understanding about the island's history and economy as well as maintain the relationships that Chaudhry had started.

This knowledge, she said, would help her promote the

islands wherever she goes. "Now, living and working here, I think it makes the difference," added Richardson.

Since coming to Saipan, Richardson said she has visited Banzai Cliff and Suicide Cliff in Marpi. "I get goose bumps every time I hear about the story. You know, like any Pacific island history, it's sad to hear what happened."

Park ranger Susan Fishman-Tudor, in a separate interview, described Richardson as "immediately accepting and cooperative with the staff and customers."

"She has already shared ideas on how to improve our usage by the local people. ... We're lucky to have her here," she added.



Richardson

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 24, 1999

SBA pledges to provide \$1 million grant to NMI

The U.S. Small Business Administration has pledged to provide a \$1 million grant to the Commonwealth Development Authority in the year 2000 if it can successfully administer the \$330,000 loan program sponsored by SBA. CDA Executive Director Marylou Ada said SBA will make an evaluation based on the demand and needs of the Commonwealth. "They want to see how we run the program, how quickly we dispense the money and what type of projects are we promoting," said Ms. Ada. SBA, which usually provides assistance only in times of disaster, has expanded its portfolio through a Microloan Program. CDA will be able to lend money to various small businesses on the island by as much as \$25,000.

\$3.6 million budget for Tinian approved

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has approved the budget request of the Tinian municipality amounting to \$3.6 million, nearly two-thirds of which have been allotted for personnel of the treasury department and the casino gaming commission. He said he signed the local budget bill in fear that employees of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission will not be able to receive their pay checks as what happened in the last few months. But the governor asked lawmakers to revisit a provision in the measure passed by the Tinian legislative delegation on Nov. 11 to address his concerns regarding authority to go on continuing appropriations in the island municipality if the CNMI budget for FY 2000 is not passed in time.

Nov. 24, 2000

Heinz asks House to weigh AGO report on PCB

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider has prodded the House leadership to seriously consider a report prepared by the Attorney General's Office in connection with the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in Tanapag. He expressed concern that failure by the government to act on its recommendations could aggravate the problem while residents continue to suffer with the environmental and health effects. In response to his request, Speaker Benigno R. Fitial immediately instructed the House legal counsels to assist legislative committees in looking into the report.

Community programs means diversity

Organized directly under the dean of Continuing Education, NMC's Community Programs' mission is to provide quality opportunities for personal and professional development for all community members within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The program strives to provide quality, short-term courses for adults and youth, paying much particular attention to the areas of computer technology, communication skills, languages, fine arts, home economics, cultural studies, sports and recreation. A recent Tour Guides Training Course is one example of the program's commitment to providing quality training.

Nov. 24, 2002

CPA gaming machines bill revived by House

Proposed legislation that would allow the operation of amusement machines at CNMI airports and seaports was revived by the House of Representatives this week, in a move to empower the Commonwealth Ports Authority to realize more revenues for the improvement of the islands' ports services. The recycled piece of legislation-the Airport and Seaport Amusement Machines Waiver Act or House Bill 13-221-was re-introduced by Rep. Daniel O. Quitugua. Rep. Norman Palacios first floated the bill during the 12th CNMI Legislature. T Quitugua, in an interview, explained that the measure is eyed to increase CPA revenues so that the autonomous agency can better assist signatory airline companies.

DLNR to launch 'Buy Local' drive

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is launching a "Buy Local" campaign, according to DLNR Secretary Tom Pangelinan. Pangelinan sent letters to the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, urging them to buy locally grown fruits and vegetables that are available at the weekly Sabalu market. He pointed out that hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets should visit the Sabalu market and meet directly with the farmers.

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turkey is really saying
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BBQ/Adobo Cut
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\$21.99

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20 LBS.
\$27.99

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\$15.99
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/CASE

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\$25.99

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100pcs.
\$8.99
/CAN

Sapporo Ichiban
21 pcs./case (LIMIT 1)
\$9.99
/CASE

Nong Shim Bowl Noodle
12pcs./case
\$5.99
/CASE

MH Coffee Mix
100 sticks
\$6.99
LIMIT 1

Maxim Mocha Gold Coffee Mix
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385g.
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Onion
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\$2.99
/LB.

Spam 12 oz.
LIMIT 6
ALL FLAVORS
\$2.49

Black Label Luncheon Meat
12 oz. (Limit 6)
\$1.79

Libby's & Armour Vienna Sausage
5 oz. **69¢**

Beach Cliff Sardines
3.75 oz. **\$1.09**

Ox & Palm Corned Beef
11.5 oz. LIMIT 6
\$2.99

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15 oz. **\$1.99**

Hormel Chili No Beans
15 oz. **\$1.99**

DM Beef Stew
15 oz. **\$1.79**

Coco Tuna
7oz. **\$1.19** Limit 6

3 Diamond Tuna
\$1.29 Limit 6

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10 3/4 oz. **\$1.09**

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn
89¢

Carnation Evaporated Milk
12 oz. (U.S.) **\$1.19**

Dragon 100% Vegetable Oil
1 Gal. **\$9.99**

AVO Vegetable Oil
1 Gal. **\$9.99**

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5.29 oz. **\$5.99**

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Sugar
2 kg. **\$3.29** Limit 2

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26 oz. **79¢**

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20 pack/case **\$12.99**
/CASE

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Limit 3 pcs. **99¢**

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16 oz. **\$3.49**

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\$2.99

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34.5 oz. **\$9.99**

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50 oz. **\$8.99**

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\$6.99

Crisco Shortening
3 lbs. **\$5.99**
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Milo
1kg. **\$4.99**

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210g. **\$5.99**

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\$2.19
/CASE

Enfamil Premium Lipil
16x8oz. RTF **\$4.19**
/CASE

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24/Case Warm Only **\$13.99**

Shasta Cola (warm only)
12oz. **\$12.99**
/CASE

Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only)
\$12.99

Pepsi 330ml. Warm Only All Flavors
\$14.99
/CASE

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24/Case Warm Only **\$28.99**

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Limit 1 Case **\$23.99**
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24 doubles rolls = 48 **\$14.99**

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100 cnts. **\$1.50**

Diamond Foil
200 Sq. Ft. **\$7.99**

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12 pcs/case **\$14.99**
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250 sheets **\$3.49**

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Christmas consumer frenzy sends me ducking for cover

By **CHERYL TRUMAN**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Intend to sleep through Black Friday. If I could, I would sleep from now until Dec. 26.

I really hate this season—the endless pressure to buy, buy, buy, as if there is something in the acquisition of a discount microfiber sectional sofa that enhances life's quality and extends life expectancy.

On Black Friday, I will be warm and untroubled, occasionally working up enough energy to crack open a book or pick through the food that China King or any of our three neighborhood pizza franchises will deliver. My college-age children will wander through the living room, cuddling with our variety of cats and planning to meet with their high school and college friends.

But I will not go out, much less camp out, in the frozen pre-dawn to get \$30 off a laptop or Blu-ray player or a boxed set of anything.

First, I think Christmas should be a short spiritual holiday, not a sprawling credit-driven fantasy in which we all play Daddy Warbucks for a week with charity, get our smug on and assume that impoverished families are covered.

Families who are poor enough to have their names and needs hung on Santa trees are also needy in August. Charitable giving is lovely, but making it seasonal only creates a consumer population that expects great stuff during the holidays and reduced-priced school lunches the rest of the year.

You want to do something meaningful? Tutor a kid in March. Donate a one-time housecleaning to a desperately sick person in May. Mow the lawn of a senior citizen in July. But step off when it comes to what poor children want for Christmas, if you think that's going to give them long-term life improvement. What they need is a sound education, attentive mentoring, a wardrobe that doesn't call attention to their poverty and a chance to succeed. These things don't just come from filling a box with adorable gewgaws and calling it a charitable day.

Teaching kids, rich or poor, that Christmas is about the stuff rather than the experience makes me queasy.

So, no, I haven't participated in Black Friday for a while. Being lazy about commercial Christmas and grateful when it's over—I spend the entire period between Halloween and Christmas envious of my Jewish friends—my only real conviction is that I'll shop when I shop, for what I need. It's amazing how often people parrot the themes of "reduce, reuse, recycle, repair" while on their way out of the electronics superstore parking lot with the latest in HDTV splendor.

It's not that I don't believe in Christmas as a day of celebration. I like the hymns and the decorations and two or three days of Christmas good feeling.

But my real attitude toward Christmas was struck by something an acquaintance said many years ago during some form of holiday parental slavery into which we had allowed ourselves to be coerced by our overbearing school: "You know, when I was a child, we didn't even put up a wreath until Christmas Eve. It seemed more special."

She had the right idea. Christmas should be a holiday, a day's vacation with music and a nice church service, a few presents and a good meal.

What I don't like is the Christmas blastathon that sets up having consumers pick through 70-percent-off cashmere sweaters come January.

Here are my reasons:

—I like to sleep. I figure being able to sleep in is worth at least \$20 when compared with standing in line in the cold dark for

See **CHRISTMAS** on Next Page

Judge ©2011 KANSAS CITY STAR / Judge@kcitystar.com



A turkey's thanks

Tom turkey forages for food under the evergreen fir tree in the middle of the quad separating the two five-story wings of multi-purpose building B at Shenyang Aerospace University where we conduct our Oral English classes. We have seen daily since August a turkey scratching the dirt and pecking on any remaining bugs and worms on the ground before the onset of the current winter snow, sans a Tara turkey for company but with five Rhode Island red hens roaming freely like fowl in the wild.

The turkey's existence gives us pause.

The university maintenance staff lets this bird menagerie reside in the minimally manicured yard (presumably allowing the roosting and nesting in the shrubs and trees) and in this first week of three inches of snow on the ground, our tropical blood is apprehensive that the below zero temperature might harm our "farm" animals. Thus we were surprised to see our turkey and hen facing the elements without any seeming adverse effect, this day before the White House traditionally pardons a cousin halfway across the globe.

Our turkey does not look fat for the traditional American Thanksgiving oven but seem lean and healthy, though a bit emaciated in his gobble-gobble gobbling in this academic neighborhood, but its winter adaptation skills seem intact as it struts proudly around, impervious to the seeming indifference of the humans for its survival and safety.

That indifference extends to the charcuterie where turkey (called houjie, the "fire chicken," due to its red wattles) is not a preferred fare on the dining table as compared to the chicken and the duck, though U.S. Chinatowns will hang the bird upon request, for their Pilgrim and Wampanoag commemorated tables. In fact, turkey is not a common item on Zhongguo's cuisine.

In our mind, the turkey in our Chinese neighborhood in its limited consciousness is quite of grand stature and a confident creature, knowing itself to be a turkey without apology nor hesitation. I could not help compare my quad's "turkey" to our common homo-sapiens-turkeys along Paseo de Marianas, CNMI, or Main Street, USA.

Let's assume for the moment that we are paradigmatic, so on any given day, we stand on tiptoes staring at our past and yearning for the comfort of bygone days because we are certain that were we able to do it all over again, we know exactly what to repeat, and are all too sure of what to avoid. Weak-kneed and jelly-spine'd, we dreadfully anticipate an unknown future, livid in our vivid imagination of what we do not wish it to be, and fearful of the uncertainty and unwanted surprises it may bring us.

Then we notice the quagmire of where we are at the location and time we presently occupy; we are disdainful of its limits, as we are cowardly to explore its possibilities.

This may be a caricature of a straw turkey but my neighbor tells

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



me to keep going.

Gracefully, life calls our name to remind us that our being is already etched in the proverbial golden annals of history from the onset of our winsome conception to the celebrated completion of our existence, and that the quality of our journey in between is freely and wonderfully a matter of our choosing. Still, I ignore life's message and would rather blame someone like Uncle Ben and his ilk, or Obama, for my miseries.

It is then that life shakes my foundations, bursts my balloons, and makes it perfectly clear that much as I wish to relive the past, it is gone and will never be ever again. Unable to forget, we are, nevertheless, able to forgive. Forgiven, the past is "given for" the future, a fodder that can fertilize our imagination and excite our anticipation.

It is then that as we cower over the threat of an impending future, we are confronted by the reality that tomorrow will never come. It never does. Its sheer openness violates our self-righteous excuses and our bloated sense of self-importance as the beginning and end of each moment is rendered fresh anew by the nature of existence itself; it becomes clear that life's daily challenge of daring adventure and its care of awe-filled exploration is all ours for the taking with every moment of our existence.

When our turkey-ness manages to get assaulted by our native humanity, NOW seeps into the morrow of our bones, into the corpuscles in our blood, to the cells in our muscles, the synapses in our brains, and the electro-magnetic tentacles of our energy connections; suddenly, awareness becomes an active and festive engagement in the here-and-now. And we are, oh, so suddenly and so quietly, but fully, profoundly and reverentially, thankful.

Still a turkey, but now with a grudging but knowing recognition of Tom Turkey as I pass his surviving hen entourage along the quad's frozen pathway, I am, nevertheless, a grateful one. And in the familiar greetings that my exams-battered and sleep-deprived students now have taken to greeting each other, "This is the day we have. We can live each day, or sleep it away. This is the day we have."

Under my breath, I utter, and deeply: I am grateful!

Today, I have a great *Thank You* turkey day.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pessimistic optimism

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."—Saint Augustine

Students in my business class prepare the entire semester for a major presentation that they make to "investors" who evaluate each presentation using specific criteria. It goes pretty fast with only 12 minutes given for each group to cover all the details, so I encourage them to have some printed material, diagrams, and product examples for the investors to view.

This semester, there was a glitch with a couple of the student's presentations because about halfway through, their computer failed to display their PowerPoint presentation on the large screen. Without any printed materials, they were left to just talk about their business concept with no visual backup.

Murphy's Law states that if anything can go wrong, it will. A corollary to this law is that it will happen at the worst possible time. I had my own chance to see Murphy's Law in action during finals week when I came into the office on Monday morning and turned my computer on and learned that it had crashed. With all my grades, tests, and projects on the computer, I was devastated for a moment. Then I remembered I had backed up the data on my computer, but it was a couple of months ago. Thanks to Jovian in the IT department at the college, he was able to recover most of the files by the next day.

These various incidents in the last few days made me think about some sharp entrepreneurs I've worked with who exhibited the quality of pessimistic optimism. They were highly optimistic, had a big

vision, and were confident that they would achieve their objectives; however, they also had a thin slice of pessimism that caused them to over-prepare by examining any worst-case scenarios and being ready to deal with them. In other words, they had backups and contingency plans in place, and they were ready to implement them, if needed, so they could quickly switch gears and get back on track.

Jeffrey Bussgang tells the story in his book, *Mastering the VC Game*, of how Christoph Westphal left a venture capital firm to become a founding CEO of a company developing a drug that would allow people to live substantially longer. Christoph had an extraordinary vision and went on the road to present his plan with boundless optimism to several venture capital firms. However, he tempered his optimism with a dash of paranoia, and explained: "I assume that everything is going to go wrong. Paranoia is part of what drives a lot of entrepreneurs in a positive direction, just worrying that everything is going to go wrong and trying to mitigate every possible risk. As Intel's Andrew Grove said, 'Only the paranoid survive.'"

Many individuals seem to operate under the belief of optimistic pessimism. They know that things are bad and getting worse, but they take little action and instead hope that someone will have mercy or something will change at the last minute to make everything better. They take one half of Saint Augustine's quote and pray that everything will turn out for their good—and sometimes it does. However, they seem to ignore the other half of the quote that requires them to work as if everything depended on them.

We are living in tough times that have many people stressed out. There is plenty of room for pessimism and evidence that things will go from bad to worse. In this dismal situation, some

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the Tribune

Rik coaches businesses through their most challenging transition points to develop consistently profitable businesses that operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



still hope that something good will happen, and relying on someone else to make it happen.

By contrast, I was talking to a prominent entrepreneur last week who spoke as if we were going through good times. He talked about his business ventures and real estate holdings with a 95-percent occupancy rate. His optimism was contagious, and one would think that he was just blessed by providence or good luck. In reality, he had carefully planned for any contingencies and created an environment that attracted customers and tenants because of the careful attention to detail he places in all his work.

Optimists see the good there is in the world, and take action as if everything depended on them, and the smart ones also pray as if everything depended on God. Thanksgiving is a time to consider all those things we are grateful for in our lives. We have been blessed by God with life and the energy to pursue the abundant opportunities that surround us—even during tough economic times. It is up to us to become a pessimistic optimist and make things happen.

Can the American empire fight back?

The Redcoats are coming! The Redcoats are coming!

Remember what your elementary school teacher taught you about the War of Independence? The British wore scarlet coats, which made them easy marks and symbolized institutional pomposity, adherence to status over efficiency and an out-of-touch empire bent on doing things the old way. The rebellious American colonists, on the other hand, wore whatever; they were nimble, unencumbered by institutional baggage and not too proud to employ guerrilla tactics.

Those lessons are as much about ideological indoctrination as they are about history. The secrets to America's success, they tell us, are rebellion and innovation, the enemies of status and tradition.

The problem today, however, is that we're the imperial power wearing the red coats. And we are so concerned about losing our global dominance that we've lost sight of the maverick qualities that made us pre-eminent in the first place.

Reflecting a widespread fear of internal decay and external competition, survey after survey shows that Americans think the country has seen its best days. Last month, a poll commissioned by the Hill newspaper found more than two-thirds (69 percent) of respondents think the United States is in decline, and 83 percent are very or somewhat worried about the nation's future. Like almost everyone else on the globe, a growing number of us, according to the Pew Global Attitudes Project, believe that China will surpass the United States as the premier superpower.

But concern over America's place in the world is one thing, hysteria is quite another. Paleoconservative commentator Pat Buchanan has just published a book, "Suicide of a Superpower," in which he suggests that the United States will collapse by 2025. Likewise, Harvard historian Niall Ferguson, who only eight years ago argued that the United States was well positioned to play a constructive imperial role throughout the world, has a new book out in which he

asserts the "imminence of our decline and fall."

So noticeable is the naysaying that the editors of Foreign Policy magazine set up an online "Decline Watch" to track, and occasionally ridicule, the "gloom-and-doom punditry." Each post comes with a rating system from 5 to 1. Five (labeled "USA! USA!") indicates good old-fashioned American triumphalism, and one ("We're totally screwed. Start Learning Mandarin") marks utter fatalism.

What this suggests is that Americans are spending entirely too much time defending their global status and not enough inventing a brighter future. It also suggests that being the sole world superpower is actually holding us back.

Our dominance has made us the castle on the hill rather than the rebels at the gate. And yet an essential component of our national M.O. is flouting the Old Guard. Indeed, the founders designed the U.S. government with the express purpose of constraining institutional power. When urging the states to ratify the new federal constitution in 1787, James Madison emphasized that the new American form of government derived its virtue from granting liberty to individuals rather than suppressing it with customs, tradition and social hierarchies.

Australian political scientist John Kane has gone so far as to argue that when the U.S. achieved global preeminence, there emerged an "irresolvable tension" between "American power and American virtue." Sitting at the top precludes striving to be better.

As we've become more powerful, it's not a stretch to say that it has changed the way we operate. It's pretty much impossible to be iconoclastic and sacrilegious—essential elements in American inventiveness—and at the same time protective of one's position of power.

Barry C. Lynn, the author of "Cornered: The New Monopoly Capitalism and the Economics of Destruction," suggests that Americans' growing infatuation with power has led us to cede too much

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Rodriguez, a columnist for the Times' opinion pages, is director of the California Fellows Program at the New America Foundation. E-mail Rodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.



control to corporate giants. Likewise, military historian Andrew Bacevich says our "penchant for empire" has fostered a culture of entitlement that saps innovation.

As a big portion of the world muddles toward what could be a catastrophic shutdown of the global financial system, Americans should keep in mind that our position at the top of the heap may have done us as much harm as good. Lynn is optimistic about our chances of surviving whatever gloomy days lie ahead. But it'll depend on regaining our rebellious spirit.

"Everything is about to fall apart," he told me over coffee last week. "The bright side is that we have an opportunity to reestablish our democracy after this plutocratic era. That'll allow us to unleash pent-up creativity we need to rethink how we engineer competition and use corporations."

So maybe America is in decline. But fretting about it won't help a lick. It's time to take off our red coats.

Gregory Rodriguez is executive director of the Center for Social Cohesion at Arizona State University and a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.

CHRISTMAS

From Page 10

something I do not need, probably don't even like and definitely don't want to go into debt to buy. If a store is advertising genuine leather Chesterfield sofas for \$100, I'll make an exception.

But the electronic stuff will get discounted again, just before it is surpassed by new and improved electronic stuff. It always does.

—My children are in college and no longer subject to the toy whim of the year. By the way, if you fight off other crazed parents for the latest overhyped gadget, your kids will never remember it and never, ever thank you for that day you nearly got creamed by a

psychotic Papa Bear at the mall. For a Furby. I blush just thinking about the day I did this very thing.

If you're going to lose your dignity, at least do it for something they will remember. Luckily, you are a parent, and your kids are guaranteed to come up against at least one disturbed peacock of an athletic coach, teacher or school administrator, so your options are many.

Just ask your kids what you got them last year. Do they remember? Do they have a sense of how many work-hours it took you to pay for those particular doodads?

—Really, can you feel good about a present that you obtained by knocking over someone in a motorized shopping cart?

—Although I've never lived in a rich family, I don't feel the urge to acquire stuff for its own sake, which is something I seem to have

passed along to my kids.

Our day is made should we find a superlatively terrible movie and figure out a way to knock back some more hash brown casserole. One of the best days we ever had, many years ago, was when we were all sick and watched "The Addams Family," again and again. We were together, and except for the occasional barking cough, we were content.






And that, for me, is the true meaning of Christmas. Good luck in the trenches, Black Friday shoppers: May the stripped-down bargain laptop you got to the cash register by drawing blood be all you hope it to be.

Cheryl Truman is a reporter for the Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader. Readers may send her email at ctruman@herald-leader.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

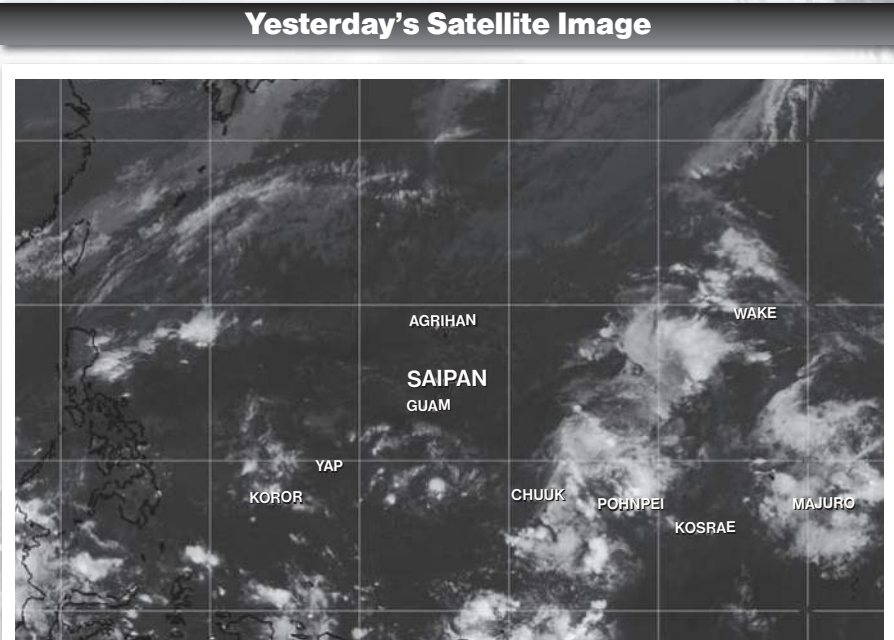
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85 ▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼72
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲85 ▼78

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲64 ▼56
Beijing	Cloudy	▲44 ▼27
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲72 ▼64
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82 ▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼39
Los Angeles	Rain	▲69 ▼52
Manila	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲75 ▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼65
New York	Sunny	▲53 ▼44
Osaka	Rain	▲40 ▼32
Paris	Cloudy	▲51 ▼44
Pusan	Sunny	▲48 ▼33
Rome	SUnny	▲62 ▼49
Salem	Rain	▲44 ▼38
San Francisco	Rain	▲58 ▼49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲36 ▼22
Tokyo	Sunny	▲57 ▼43
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲58 ▼42

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N156E to 18N141E to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary including Minami Tori Shima. A surface trough extends northeastward over Chuuk from 3N148E to 13N154E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between Chuuk and Pohnpei within 240 miles of a line from 1N153E to 12N157E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 7N164E to 14N172E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Kwajalein and Majuro within 200 miles of a line from 13N167E to 5N174E. Upper-level lows are centered west of Wake Island near 18N157E and well to the northeast near 24N177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southwest of Wake Island between 15N and 19N from 157E to 164E and well to the east east of a line from 25N175E to 17N177E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:23 AM	5:44 PM	Today	4:57 AM	4:42 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM	Friday	6:02 AM	5:41 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM	Saturday	7:07 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM	Sunday	8:09 AM	7:45 PM
Monday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM	Monday	9:05 AM	8:45 PM

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5	C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5	C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05070	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP	C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6	C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6	C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	CO190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT	CO190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM	CO192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	CO184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am	1, 5 via GUM	CO184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am	3, 6 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05076/179	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	CO180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NMHC to factor in new LEAC rate in utility allowance

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will take into consideration the newly approved rate cut in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s levelized energy adjustment clause in calculating the utility allowance for those in the Section 8 and Multifamily Housing programs.

Program and Housing Division manager Zerlyn Taimanao submitted to and was poised to seek the board's approval Monday a proposed utility allowance schedule that she prepared a week ago.

But Taimanao said they "probably have to re-evaluate" since the proposed schedule is "based on CUC's scheduled electric charges and rates" effective June 2011 and does not reflect the new LEAC rate effective Nov. 20, which the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission only approved on Saturday.

The new \$0.30791 per kilowatt-hour LEAC charge is a 10.6-percent drop from the previous \$0.34426 rate.

Taimanao said that they "have to make adjustments to the current utility allowance" every month. She believes that the last time the utility allowance was adjusted was "last year before I came on board," noting that the allowance remains the same when there is no change in CUC's rates.

The utility allowance also factors in the housing unit size, added Taimanao.

The board later directed Taimanao to recalculate the utility allowance and include the new LEAC charge and present it at their next meeting in December.

Direct payment

Corporate director Joshua Sasamoto also opened discussion about "possibly" paying the utility allowance directly to CUC.

"We have a big problem with tenants not paying their power so you may want to consider going back to what we're doing before, which is paying CUC directly. If you ask me, I would recommend that. That way, there's no question that it goes to CUC," he said.

However, board members raised concerns about this, saying that there are scenarios that might be problematic when this is implemented. For example, what will happen to the difference if the utility bill is only \$90 and the allowance is \$100?

Board chair Marcie Tomokane instructed NMHC staff to find out whether it's allowable under the program to make direct payments to CUC, if the difference can be rolled over to the next billing, and if excess funds can be used for the next tenant.

*May our families continue to receive
God's blessings all year round.*

WISHING YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!

Greetings from

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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for He is good; His love endures forever."**

-1 Chronicles 16:34

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Business

Economy means scaled-back Thanksgiving for many

By NOMAAN MERCHANT and

DAVID KLEPPER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some are holding potluck dinners instead of springing for the entire feast. Others are staying home rather than flying. And a few are skipping the turkey altogether.

On this the fourth Thanksgiving since the economy sank, prices for everything from airline flights to groceries are going up, and some Americans are scaling back. Yet in many households, the occasion is too important to skimp on. Said one mother: "I don't have much to give, but I'll be cooking, and the door will be open."

Thanksgiving airfares are up 20 percent this year, and the average price of a gallon of gas has risen almost 20 percent, according to travel tracker AAA. Rail travelers were also affected, with fares on most one-way Amtrak tickets up 2 to 5 percent.

Still, about 42.5 million people are expected to travel, the highest number since the start of the recession.

But even those who choose to stay home and cook for themselves will probably spend more. A 16-pound turkey and all the trimmings will cost an average of \$49.20, a 13 percent jump from last year, or about \$5.73 more, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation, which says grocers have raised prices to keep pace with higher-



AP

A turkey is shown with other items inside a customer's shopping cart at Pixley's Shurfine grocery store in Akron, N.Y., Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011.

priced commodities.

In Pawtucket, R.I., Jackie Galinis was among those looking for help to put a proper meal on the table. She stopped at a community center this week seeking a donated food basket. But by the time she arrived, all 300 turkeys had been claimed.

So Galinis, an unemployed retail worker, will make do with what's in her apartment. "We'll have to eat whatever I've got, so I'm thinking chicken," she said.

Then her eyes lit up. "Actually, I think I've got red meat in the freezer, some corned beef. We could do a boiled dinner."

Galinis has another reason to clear out her apartment's freezer: Her landlord is in the process of evicting her and her 3-year-old son. The unemployment rate in Pawtucket, a city struggling with the loss of manufacturing jobs, is 12.1 percent, well above the national average.

Carole Goldsmith of Fresno, Calif., decided she didn't need to have a feast, even if she could still afford it.

Goldsmith, an administrator at a community college in Coalinga, Calif., said she typically hosts an "over-the-top meal" for friends and family. This year, she canceled the meal and donated a dozen turkeys to two homeless shelters. She plans to spend Thursday volunteering before holding a small celebration Friday with soup, bread "and lots of gratitude."

"I think everybody is OK with it," she said. "They understand. Everybody is in a different place than they were a year ago."

In suburban Chicago, the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry got rid of turkey altogether. Last year, the pantry had a lottery in October to distribute 600 turkeys between almost 1,500 families.

The pantry's management has decided to give all of its families a choice between other kinds of meat—ground

turkey, sliced chicken, fish sticks and hamburger patties—along with the other trappings of a Thanksgiving feast. The decision will save \$16,000, money that can go to feeding the hungry for the rest of the year.

"Do we give turkeys and hams to half of the people or do we give them to none of them and put that money back in the general food budget?" said the pantry's executive director, Kathy Russell.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Debt panel's demise sets up partisan wrangling

WASHINGTON (AP)—The failure of a special deficit-reduction supercommittee sets up a year-end battle between President Barack Obama and a dysfunctional Congress over renewing a payroll tax cut and jobless benefits for millions. At the same time, the debt panel's failure triggers deep, automatic cuts to the Pentagon budget, beginning in 2013, that defense hawks already are dedicated to unwinding. Domestic programs would bear cuts as well. And the panel's failure puts taxes and out-of-control deficits front and center in next year's presidential and congressional campaigns. The election's outcome is likely to determine whether Bush-era tax cuts that expire in December 2012 will be fully renewed or whether Obama can force Republicans to make concessions on taxes.

FCC chairman opposes AT&T takeover of T-Mobile

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission has come out against the

merger of cellphone giant AT&T and T-Mobile USA. Julius Genachowski made his position known in a document he circulated to fellow commissioners Tuesday. Genachowski recommended sending AT&T Inc.'s proposed \$39 billion takeover of T-Mobile to an administrative law judge for review and a hearing. That's what the FCC does when it opposes a merger.

Retail groups file suit over debit card fee rules

NEW YORK (AP)—A coalition of retail groups sued the Federal Reserve on Tuesday, claiming the regulator ignored the law by setting too high a cap on the fees that banks can charge merchants for handling debit card purchases. The National Retail Federation and other groups claimed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., that the Fed buckled under pressure from bank lobbyists when it set the cap at an average of about 24 cents per transaction in late June. The previously unregulated fees used to average around 44 cents. The cap, which took effect Oct. 1, was initially proposed at 12 cents.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-003

Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Urgent Repair of Fuel Tanks Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tanks have been cleaned and undergone API inspections and they are not currently in use. The piping or part of the piping may still be in use and they would be emptied by CUC and handed over for the necessary work through a mutually arranged schedule with the winning contractor. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set, upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 9, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a mandatory site visit is scheduled for **November 28, 2011 at 10:30 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant No. 1, Songsong village, Rota to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Seven(7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "RFP-12-003 – Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Pipeline, Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on December 9, 2011**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Mika Muna via email at mika.muna@cucgov.org; Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project coordinator SO 2 via email at venu@cucgov.net and Mr. Edward Chargulaf, Technical Manager for Oil via email at ed.char@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-004

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION (Phase No. 2)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP) to supply electrical energy and other products generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) systems for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation PV facilities that best fit the CUC requirements. Selected IPPs will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in this RFP. The scope of services requested in this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Generating Facilities.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **December 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center in Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-004 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation (Phase No. 2)" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **December 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **December 09, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Nation

Giving thanks helps your psychological outlook

WASHINGTON (AP)—Count your blessings this Thanksgiving. It's good for you.

While it seems pretty obvious that gratitude is a positive emotion, psychologists for decades rarely delved into the science of giving thanks. But in the last several years they have, learning in many experiments that it is one of humanity's most powerful emotions. It makes you happier and can change your attitude about life, like an emotional reset button.

Especially in hard times, like these. Beyond proving that being grateful helps you, psychologists also are trying to figure out the brain chemistry behind gratitude and the best ways of showing it.

"Oprah was right," said University of Miami psychology professor Michael McCullough, who has studied people who are asked to be regularly thankful. "When you are stopping and counting your blessings, you are sort of hijacking your emotional system."

And he means hijacking it from out of a funk into a good place. A very good place. Research by McCullough and others finds that giving thanks is a potent emotion that feeds on itself, almost the equivalent of being victorious. It could be called a vicious circle, but it's anything but vicious.

He said psychologists used to underestimate the strength of simple gratitude: "It does make people happier ... It's that incredible feeling."

One of the reasons why gratitude works so well is that it connects us with others, McCullough said. That's why when you give thanks it should be more heartfelt and personal instead of a terse thank you note for a gift or a hastily run-through grace before dinner, psychologists say.



In this Thursday, Nov. 24, 2005 file photo Frank Gipson prays before having dinner at the 31st annual Thanksgiving dinner put on by the Orleans Parish Sheriffs Office in New Orleans, La. **AP**

Chicago area psychologist and self-help book author Maryann Troiani said she starts getting clients on gratitude gradually, sometimes just by limiting their complaints to two whines a session. Then she eventually gets them to log good things that happened to them in gratitude journals: "Gratitude really changes your attitude and your outlook on life."

Gratitude journals or diaries, in which people list weekly or nightly what they are thankful for, are becoming regular therapy tools.

ACROSS THE NATION

Document: Missing 5-year-old Ariz. girl was abused

PHOENIX (AP)—New details emerged Tuesday about the child abuse case against the mother of a missing 5-year-old Arizona girl, including allegations that the girl was kept in a bedroom closet, deprived of food and water, and beaten. A court document detailing the allegations was released minutes after the girl's mother, Jerice Hunter, 38, had her first court appearance, during which she proclaimed her innocence. It included claims that Hunter told the girl's siblings to lie about her disappearance. "I'd just like to be given the chance to prove my innocence," Hunter told a judge, who ordered that she be held on a \$100,000 bond because of her history of child abuse and the seriousness of the charge against her.

Weary, blistered Wall Street protesters reach DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—Drenched, blistered and weary, a few dozen Occupy Wall Street protesters arrived Tuesday in the nation's capital after a two-week, 240-mile march from Zuccotti Park in lower Manhattan. The marchers, many wearing hooded ponchos in a steady rain, walked into the Occupy D.C. encampment, where fellow pro-

testers lined up outside their tents and greeted them with cheers, applause and hugs. Organizers said the march, which they called Occupy the Highway, accomplished their goal of taking their concerns about income equality and corporate influence in politics on the road, including to rural communities that previously had little exposure to the movement. "People who had never heard about the occupation, heard about it," said Owen Johnson, 23, an artist from North Pownal, Vt., who walked the entire distance barefoot.

Drug-laden plane left at Texas airstrip was sold

HOUSTON (AP)—A small plane abandoned with about 100 pounds of marijuana onboard after skidding off the runway at a small private airstrip was recently sold at auction or in an estate sale following the death of its registered owner, authorities said Tuesday. John Kremmer, chief sheriff's deputy in Waller County, said federal investigators determined the twin-engine plane abandoned Monday at Houston Executive Airport was purchased some months ago, but its new owner apparently didn't reregister it. The previous owner was from La Vernia, just south-east of San Antonio.

Congress' next fights over jobless aid, tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress' failed deficit-cutting supercommittee has faded away, but the pressure on lawmakers to quickly confront a stack of expensive economic issues is only growing.

Before leaving town for Christmas and New Year's, lawmakers face decisions on whether to renew payroll tax cuts that have meant an average of nearly \$1,000 for more than 120 million families this year. Congress also

must determine whether to extend unemployment benefits for millions of long-term jobless Americans.

Without action, both expire Jan. 1.

Also on the list: Whether to prevent a 27 percent cut in Medicare reimbursements to doctors that occurs on New Year's Day. And oh, yes—figuring out how to avoid an embarrassing mid-December government shutdown, something that has become

a frequent exercise in today's bitterly divided Congress.

Protecting the payroll tax cuts, jobless benefits and doctors' payments could cost \$200 billion or more. But faced with a limp economy, the huge federal debt, next year's presidential and congressional elections, and the supercommittee's finger-pointing, partisan breakdown, clashes over each are inevitable.

20 students accused in college-exam scandal in NY

GREAT NECK, N.Y. (AP)—At least 20 current or former high school students from an affluent New York suburb of high achievers have been charged in a widening college entrance exam cheating scandal that has raised questions not only about test security but about the pressures to score well.

Thirteen students from the Great Neck area, a cluster of Long Island communities with top-ranked schools that send virtually all their graduates

to college, were implicated in the latest round of charges, filed Tuesday. Seven others were arrested in September.

Prosecutors said 15 high school students hired five other people for anywhere from \$500 to \$3,600 each to take the SAT or ACT for them. The impostors—all of them college students who attended Great Neck-area public and private high schools—fooled test administrators by showing up for the exams with phony ID.

"Honest, hardworking students are taking a back seat to the cheaters," Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice said. "This is a system begging for security enhancements."

Prosecutors actually suspect 40 students were involved in the cheating, but the two-year statute of limitation had expired for the others, Rice said.

All the defendants but three, who were awaiting arraignment, pleaded not guilty.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, December 01, 2011 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of November 3, 2011 minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings

1. None

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. None

E. New Business.

1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2011
2. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

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Asia

Bombs defused near PH massacre site

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Authorities in the restive southern Philippines defused five roadside bombs near the site of a 2009 massacre Wednesday, the day relatives of the 57 victims marked the second anniversary of the killings.

No casualties were reported but tensions were running high. About 200 policemen were deployed to secure the massacre site and the immediate vicinity with dozens of people attending the commemoration ceremonies.

Provincial Gov. Esmel Mangudadatu, whose relatives were among the dead, canceled a visit to the massacre site in Ampatuan township in Maguindanao province, saying, "We're taking no chance."

"I was about to go there but the provincial director advised me to refrain from going to the site," Mangudadatu said. He survived an August bomb attack that killed two people in the southern Philippines, where shooting incidents and bomb explosions are common.

According to a military report, two of the homemade

bombs were made of 81 mm mortar shells and two-way radios to remotely detonate them. They were found along the national highway near a camp of Muslim rebels.

It wasn't clear who was responsible for planting the explosives, but about 100 of the 197 people charged in the politically motivated 2009 killings are still at large.

Andal Ampatuan Sr., patriarch of a powerful Maguindanao clan and former governor of an autonomous Muslim region, is among nearly 100 suspects being tried on murder charges in the massacre, together with his sons and other relatives.

Gunmen allegedly led by former town mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. stopped members of the Mangudadatu clan, the Ampatuans' political rivals, as they traveled to file for candidacy in regional elections. They were led to a hilltop clearing, gunned down and hastily buried in mass graves. The dead included 32 media workers covering the Mangudadatu, making the massacre the worst single killing of journalists in the world.

Relatives and colleagues of the slain journalists visited the massacre site Tuesday to offer prayers and 58 white lilies and lit candles. The charge sheet lists 57 victims but the body of journalist Reynaldo Momay, who was also part of the convoy, was never found.

A Roman Catholic priest celebrated Mass at the mound where concrete markers bearing the names of dead were erected.

Muslim rebels have waged a bloody insurgency for self-rule in Maguindanao and other parts of the southern Mindanao region, the homeland of minority Muslims in the predominantly Catholic Philippines. The conflict has killed more than 120,000 people in nearly four decades.

But it was the political nature of the 2009 massacre that sent the shock waves.

On Tuesday, Harry Roque, a lawyer for the victims' relatives, filed a civil suit against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, alleging that she could have prevented the killings because the Ampatuans were her allies.



AP

Roman Catholic priest Fr. Robert Reyes blesses the site of the massacre of 57 people including 32 journalists and staff at Maguindanao, southern Philippines following a mass on the eve of the 2nd anniversary Tuesday Nov. 22, 2011.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia police arrest 2 in orangutan killings

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Police say two Indonesian palm oil workers have been arrested for allegedly slaughtering at least 20 endangered orangutans and proboscis monkeys. Police spokesman Col. Antonius Wisnu Sutirta said Wednesday that plantation owners eager to protect crops on Borneo island from being raided allegedly paid the men up to \$100 for each primate killed. He says the men admitted to chasing down the animals, then shooting, stabbing or hacking them to death with machetes. The men face up to five years in prison.

Helicopter crashes installing Christmas tree in NZ

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—A helicopter helping install a Christmas tree on Auckland's waterfront has crashed in dramatic fashion, but the pilot escaped serious injury. Footage captured by Television New Zealand on Wednesday shows the pilot slowly descending from about 25 feet (8 meters) when the chopper's blades appear to

get caught in cables attached to scaffolding. The rear of the helicopter snaps and the pilot is tossed about as the helicopter smashes into the ground. The television station reports that pilot Greg Gribble, who has 20 years experience, says he's "doing fine" after his ordeal.

Commander: Pakistani Taliban declare cease-fire

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani Taliban have declared a cease-fire to encourage nascent peace talks with the government, a senior commander said, a move that appears to show the deadly group's willingness to strike a deal. It was unclear Tuesday whether all the militants claiming to be under the Taliban banner would obey the directive, which the commander said had been in effect for a month. The Pakistani Taliban are believed to be divided into many factions. There has also been significant militant violence in the country in recent weeks. Hours after the Taliban announcement, state-run Pakistan Television quoted Interior Minister Rehman Malik as saying that the government had not held formal talks with the Taliban.

World

Protesters reject concessions by Egypt's military

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's military ruler promised Tuesday to speed up a presidential election to the first half of 2012 and said the armed forces were prepared to hold a referendum on immediately shifting power to civilians—concessions swiftly rejected by tens of thousands of protesters in Tahrir Square, who chanted, "Leave! Leave!"

The latest standoff plunged the country deeper into crisis less than a week before parliamentary elections, the first since the ouster nine months ago of longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak.

In a televised address to the nation, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi rejected all criticism of the military's handling of the transitional period and sought to cast himself and the generals on the military council he heads as the nation's foremost patriots. Significantly, he made no mention of the throngs of protesters gathered in Tahrir Square to demand that he step down immediately in favor of an interim civilian council.

Tantawi spoke as protesters fought army soldiers and police for a fourth day in streets leading to the iconic square that was the birthplace of Egypt's uprising, particularly near the heavily fortified Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police. Nearly 30 people have been killed in the violence, mostly in Cairo, and at least 2,000 have been wounded.

"Our demands are clear," said Khaled El-Sayed, a protester from the Youth Revolution Coalition and a candidate in the Nov. 28 parliamentary election. "We want the military council to step down and hand over authority to a national salvation government with full authority."

The military previously floated the end of next year or early 2013 as the likely dates for the presidential election, which is widely being seen as the last stop in the process of transferring power. But Tantawi did not mention a specific date for the vote or when the military would return to its barracks.

Furthermore, his offer for the military to step down immediately if the people so wished in a referendum was vague at best, but it also mirrored the generals' aversion to the youth groups that engineered the 18-day uprising that ousted Mubarak and which are again behind the massive, anti-military protest in Tahrir Square.

His referendum proposal suggests that Tantawi has no faith that the crowds in the streets

of Cairo and other cities represent of the nation's will.

The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's strongest and best organized group, is not taking part in the ongoing protests in a move that is widely interpreted to be a reflection of its desire not to do anything that could derail a parliamentary election it is sure to dominate.

The Brotherhood and the military have long been suspected of having a secret rapport although both sides vehemently deny it. If a referendum is held, the Brotherhood has the resources to influence the balloting by its ability to mobilize supporters and, for the right price, portray a vote favorable to the military as the duty of Muslims.

Belal Fadl, a prominent columnist who has grown increasingly critical of the military after initially supporting it, said the solution for Egypt is to hold a presidential election immediately.

"The referendum proposed by the field marshal would have worked if there was no revolution, and no hundreds of thousands in the streets, and tens of dead and thousands of wounded. Fear God for the sake of Egypt," he wrote on his Twitter account. "I had hoped Tantawi's speech would be reconciliatory and consensual. But he chose a defiant speech."

Tantawi's address also bore a striking resemblance to Mubarak's televised speeches during the uprising, when the ousted leader made one concession after another—only to be rejected by protesters as too little, too late. Mubarak said he made many sacrifices for Egypt, that he never cherished power and that he was hurt by the criticism from demonstrators.

On Tuesday, Tantawi rejected what he called attempts to taint the reputation of the armed forces.

"We have no aspiration to rule. ... The armed forces reject totally these attempts that target the military," a grim-looking Tantawi said.

The former defense minister under Mubarak said the criticism of the military council was meant to weaken the armed forces and "bring down the Egyptian state."

"The armed forces, represented by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, has no desire to rule and puts the country's interests above all," he said. "It is ready to hand over responsibility immediately and return to its original duty of defending the country if the people want that, and through a public referendum if it is necessary."

Repeating a charge often made by fellow generals on the military council, Tantawi accused "forces working in the dark" of inciting sedition and driving a wedge between the people and the armed forces.

As with Mubarak, Tantawi's words fell on deaf ears in Tahrir Square.



WORLD BRIEFS

Many Somali famine victims afraid to return home

DOLO, Somalia (AP)—Lush patches of green dot this once-barren land, allowing goats and camels to graze. A nearby field is full of large, purple onions thanks to a U.N.-funded project. Four months after the U.N. declared famine in much of Somalia, some regions are beginning a slow recovery from a disaster that has killed tens of thousands of people. But many Somalis—women, mostly—living in a stick-hut camp in this border town say they won't return home because they're afraid of hard-line Islamist militants stalking the country,

and of being unable to feed themselves and their children. The U.N. last week reduced the number of famine zones in Somalia from six to three and said the number of people at risk of starvation has dropped from 750,000 to 250,000.

Hague prosecutor seeks fair trial for Gadhafi son

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—The International Criminal Court's prosecutor held talks Tuesday with Libyan authorities on ensuring a fair trial for Moammar Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam, who is being held by revolutionary fighters. The prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, conceded

the Libyans have the authority to try him at home but he wants judges from the Netherlands-based court to be involved. Seif al-Islam, once the face of reform in Libya and the leader of his father's effort to shake off pariah status, is charged with crimes against humanity by the ICC for the crackdown on an uprising that began in February and grew into a civil war. "Seif is captured so we are here to ensure cooperation," Moreno-Ocampo told reporters after arriving in Libya. "If they (Libyans) prosecute the case, we will discuss with them how to inform the judges, and they can do it, but our judges have to be involved."

Focus

VERONA, N.J. (AP)—Retirement communities may have their perks, but Beryl O'Connor says it would be tough to match the birthday surprise she got in her own backyard when she turned 80 this year.

She was tending her garden when two little girls from next door—"my buddies," she calls them—brought her a strawberry shortcake. It underscored why she wants to stay put in the house that she and her husband, who died 18 years ago, purchased in the late 1970s.

"I couldn't just be around old people—that's not my lifestyle," she said. "I'd go out of my mind."

Physically spry and socially active, O'Connor in many respects is the embodiment of "aging in place," growing old in one's own longtime home and remaining engaged in the community rather than moving to a retirement facility.

According to surveys, aging in place is the overwhelming preference of Americans over 50. But doing it successfully requires both good fortune and support services—things that O'Connor's pleasant hometown of Verona has become increasingly capable of providing.

About 10 miles northwest of Newark, Verona has roughly 13,300 residents nestled into less than 3 square miles. There's a transportation network that takes older people on shopping trips and to medical appointments, and the town is benefiting from a \$100,000 federal grant to put in place an aging-in-place program called Verona LIVE.

Administrated by United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey, the program strives to educate older people about available services to help them address problems and stay active in the community. Its partners include the health and police departments, the rescue squad, the public and public schools, and religious groups.

Among the support services are a home maintenance program with free safety checks and minor home repairs, access to a social worker and job counselor, a walking club and other social activities. In one program, a group of middle-school girls provided one-on-one computer training to about 20 older adults.

Social worker Connie Pifher, Verona's health coordinator, said a crucial part of the overall initiative is educating older people to plan ahead realistically and constantly reassess their prospects for successfully aging in place.

"There are some people who just can do it, especially if they have family support," said Pifher. "And then you run into people who think they can do it, yet really can't. You need to start educating people before a crisis hits."

There's no question that aging in place has broad appeal. According to an Associated Press-LifeGoesStrong.com poll conducted in October, 52 percent of baby boomers said they were unlikely to move someplace new in retirement. In a 2005 survey by AARP, 89 percent of people age 50 and older said they would prefer to remain in their home indefinitely as they age.

That yearning, coupled with a widespread dread of going to a nursing home, has led to a nationwide surge of programs aimed at helping people stay in their neighborhoods longer.

Verona LIVE is a version of one such concept: the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, or NORC. That can be either a specific housing



Beryl O'Connor stands in front of her home in Verona, N.J., Friday Nov. 11, 2011. Physically spry and active, 80-year-old O'Connor is the embodiment of "aging in place", growing old in one's own longtime home and remaining engaged in the community, rather than moving to a retirement facility. AP

complex or a larger neighborhood in which many of the residents have aged in place over a long period of time and need a range of support services in order to continue living in their homes.

Verona is an apt setting. Roughly 20 percent of its residents are over 65, compared with 13 percent for New Jersey as a whole.

Another notable initiative is the "village" concept. Members of these nonprofit entities can access specialized programs and services, such as transportation to stores, home health care, or help with household chores, as well as a network of social activities with other members.

About 65 village organizations have formed in the U.S. in recent years, offering varying services and charging membership fees that generally range between \$500 and \$700 a year.

One of the potential problems for people hoping to age in place is that their homes may not be senior-friendly. It becomes a challenge because we live in Peter Pan houses, designed for people who never grow old," said Susan Bosak, a social scientist who is overseeing a program to boost intergenerational engagement in Tulsa, Okla.

Many older people live in homes that are 40 or more years old, abounding with narrow interior doorways, hard-to-reach kitchen cupboards and potentially hazardous bathroom fixtures.

"If you're a boomer person, with money to remodel, think about making your house more user-friendly, not just more beautiful, for when you have your knee replacement or a chronic condi-

tion," said Nancy Thompson of AARP. "We're talking smart, convenient. It doesn't have to look institutional or utilitarian."

To promote this outlook, AARP has teamed up with the National Association of Home Builders to create a designation for certified aging in place specialists trained in designing and modifying residences for the elderly. Several thousand builders, contractors, remodelers and architects have been certified. Building or remodeling homes can include such details as touchless faucets, trim kitchen drawers instead of cupboards, grab bars and

for staying put over the long term.

Plus, she's got company at home—a 26-year-old granddaughter lives upstairs and commutes to a job in New York—and many friends around town, where she has a busy schedule of club meetings, group lunches, card games and occasional bus trips to casinos.

"You've got to socialize," she says. "There are things out there to do—you've got to look for them."

Ira and Roseanne Bornstein, who live a few blocks from O'Connor, also think their longtime home can accommodate them suitably for many years to come. There's a room on the ground floor they could convert to a bedroom, and space upstairs to house a live-in aide if one were needed.

"It's a modest home, but it's always worked for us," said Rosanne Bornstein, 63, who was a school counselor and teacher for 25 years. "We're very strong in wanting to stay here."

Her 69-year-old husband, a retired pharmacist, said they worry that the economics of relocating might result in a smaller residence, and crimp their ability to entertain and host out-of-town guests.

"People are younger and healthier when they retire," he said. "If you plan right, you can have a lot of time to enjoy it."

Connie Pifher, the town social worker, engages with aging-in-place issues as part of her job, and also on a personal level as she nears retirement at 64.

Divorced, with two grown sons, she used to be determined to stay on in her four-bedroom house as a retiree. Now she's planning to move out, to a co-op or townhouse. She said the

ordeal of a recent three-day power outage after a surprise snowstorm hammered home the point that "it's time to move out of Dodge."

"Do I want to worry about the sump pump or getting the car out of the garage when the door doesn't work?" she asked.

One former option, moving to an upscale retirement community, is off the table for financial reasons. She said the value of her house has dropped too far for her to afford that switch.

That's a relatively common problem, with many continuing-care retirement communities charging entry fees of several hundred thousand dollars, followed by ongoing monthly fees.

In several states, there's debate about whether to promote aging in place by shifting more Medicaid dollars to community-based programs and away from traditional nursing facilities. But budget problems may complicate such efforts as some financially struggling states cut back on home health services that help keep some elderly people out of nursing homes.

Susan Bosak, the social scientist who is advising Tulsa on its Across the Generations initiative, says building positive intergenerational relations throughout a community is vital to enhancing life for its elderly.

"Aging in place fosters the illusion we can do it by ourselves, but we can't," she said. "A high quality of life requires support from the entire community."

It's worth the effort, she says, if it means that more older people are aging where they feel most comfortable.

"Home is more than just meeting our need for shelter," she said. "It's in our memories. It's where we can be ourselves."

"I couldn't just be around old people—that's not my lifestyle. I'd go out of my mind."

Environment

Bust the clutter before the holidays hit

By **TERRI BENNETT**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Got clutter? Are you like me and determined to make some room before the holidays hit? Do Your Part as you sort, organize, and get rid of all that stuff you no longer want or need. Instead of sending it straight to the landfill, you can do some good with all of it and you might even make a few bucks in the process.

GOT TOYS?

I'll start with the stuff that takes up the most space and will drive most any parent out of their

mind—all those toys! The list goes on and on from stuffed animals to tea sets to baby dolls and hot wheels. Many times, our kids get tired of their toys well before those toys are worn out. Don't dump them in the trash—donate them so other kids can have a special holiday. Places like Goodwill would love to take your toys this time of year. So would certain children's school programs and the Salvation Army. It is difficult to make money on used toys but consider selling some of the bigger toys such as tricycles and dollhouses

to consignment shops specifically geared toward kids. I've also had success selling items on Craigslist.org.

GOT GADGETS?

Are cell phones, tablets, or gaming devices on your shopping list this year? Don't let the old gadgets go to waste just because a newer version is on the market. Selling these devices is a good (and oh-so-easy!) way to earn some money with items you no longer use. NextWorth is one online site that will buy back your gadgets for top dollar. They're even offering a 10

percent bonus for all iPods this season. Even major companies such as Amazon, Target, Walmart, and Best Buy are participating in electronic trade-in programs this year where you can get gift cards in return for your items. Check out DoYourPart.com/Columns for an extensive list of gadget buy-back sites.

GOT CLOTHES?

Are your closets jam-packed with clothes that you and your family no longer wear? Don't

let them take up valuable space when they could go to someone who wants or needs them. Many well cared-for clothes hold a lot of value and can be sold in consignment shops or online sites such as eBay. Of course, you can also donate them to a local charity and claim a tax deduction for the value of your goods.

No matter what you have, there are ways to Do Your Part with all of it. It could be helping a family in need, keeping

valuable materials out of our landfills, or earning a few dollars while giving used electronics a second life. Now that's the perfect holiday gift for you and our planet!

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, author, and founder of DoYourPart, everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com and follow DoYourPart on Facebook and Twitter.



ADOPT-A-BIN

The sponsors for the Adopt-A-Bin renew their adoptions for another year, contributing about \$1,000 to MINA. These companies are the Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., Brabu Pharmacy, CTSI, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Docomo Pacific, Ericco Enterprises, Ideal Signs, IT&E, Marianas Trekking, Marianas Visitors Authority, Rotary Club of Saipan, Saipan Computer Services, Shell Marianas, Tan Holdings, and the Visitor's Channel.

MINA

Free workshop on growing bananas

If you like the sweet taste of Guam-grown bananas, the University of Guam Cooperative Extension Service is offering a free workshop on growing bananas on Saturday, Dec. 3, at UOG.

Participants will learn the importance of starting their banana patches or plantations with healthy plants, how tissue culture is done, the best ways to fertilize, how to recognize when their plants may be infected with the dreaded banana bunchy top virus, and what to do if they are.

The Guam Department of Agriculture and the University of Guam, with funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture, have been propagating disease-free planting stock through tissue culture and many of the most popular and delicious varieties will be available for sale at the workshop.

The advantages of planting tissue-cultured plants are many:

- Since they are disease and



insect free they will grow faster and more vigorously than suckers taken from the field.

- All tissue-cultured plants are guaranteed to be of the same variety.

- They can be ordered in advance and available in large numbers at one time.

"I highly encourage all banana lovers and farmers to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to buy these disease-free banana plants at the workshop or any weekday at the Department of Agriculture," said plant pathologist George Wall. "There is nothing like tree-ripened locally-grown fruit in terms of nutrition, taste and value."

The banana workshop will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, UOG Campus, Ag & Life Sciences Bldg Room 127, from 8:30am to 11:45am. Banana varieties available include William, Guahu, Macao, Manila, Lacatan, Yangambi, and Dwarf French Plantain (cooking). Prices (\$3-\$10) dependent on size of plants. (UOG)



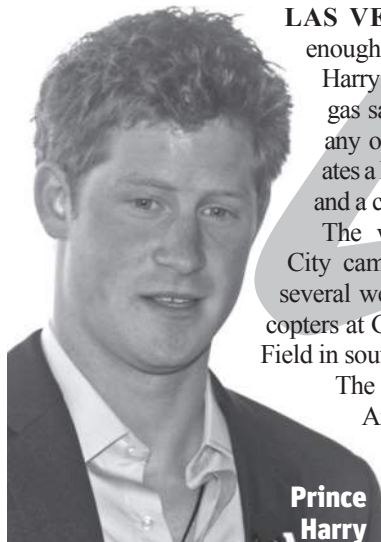
TREE PLANTING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Marianas Lion's Club and the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, MINA, worked together on a tree planting project in Laolao Beach on Oct. 30. This activity is part of the Tasi-Watch Project for Laolao Bay. Tasi-Watch is a partnership effort between MINA and government agencies to enhance near-shore marine management by providing the community the opportunity to become directly involved in this management.

Life & Style

Prince Harry rents Harley for first visit to Vegas



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Those lucky enough to have a brush with Prince Harry during his first visit to Las Vegas say he was as down-to-earth as any other 27-year-old who appreciates a Harley, a night out with friends, and a cheap beer.

The weekend rendezvous in Sin City came as the prince is spending several weeks training on Apache helicopters at Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field in southern Arizona.

The trip started in Scottsdale, Ariz., where Harry rented a motorcycle to drive to Las Vegas, about six hours away.

Dan Dvorak of Hacienda Harley-Davidson said

the royal showed up in jeans and a baseball cap when he stopped by the Scottsdale dealership Friday to rent a bike.

"He's just a regular 27-year-old guy," said Dvorak, the dealership's rental manager, in an interview with The Associated Press. "Mild-mannered. Excited to be on a Harley."

Dvorak said the prince has a motorcycle license in the U.K., but completed a test drive on a 1600cc bike before officials set him and his entourage loose on American highways.

"He definitely knew what he was doing," Dvorak said.

People magazine reported that Harry—third in line for the British crown behind his father and older brother, William—rented a

room at the Wynn Las Vegas, a five-star, 50-story resort on the Las Vegas Strip. Wynn spokeswoman Deanna Pettit says the resort does not comment on guest visits.

The prince's itinerary took a splashy turn the following day. A Cirque du Soleil spokeswoman said Harry's party reserved prime, \$178 seats for Saturday's 7:30 p.m. performance of the water-themed "O."

Show officials said they held the prince and four of his military friends in a VIP room for about 20 minutes before discreetly ushering them to their seats as the curtain rose.

Harry and his party were seen clapping enthusiastically and laughing during the show—and also sipping a Corona apiece.

He told show staff afterward that he'd

heard "O"—set at the Bellagio—was the best of the seven Cirque shows in town.

Officials said the prince was impressed with the water effects and contortionists in "O," which features acrobats, synchronized swimmers and characters performing in, on and above a 1.5-million-gallon pool.

The prince was reportedly returning to Arizona Monday. He is among 20 students in the British Army participating in a two-month military helicopter training course in the U.S.

The training started at the Naval Air Facility at El Centro, Calif., where students flew Apache helicopters in the desert near the Mexican border. In Arizona, they are firing missiles, rockets and cannons from the helicopters.

Roots welcome Bachmann with pointed song

NEW YORK (AP)—A Democratic congresswoman says NBC should apologize for its "insulting and inappropriate" treatment of Republican presidential contender Michele Bachmann when she appeared on Jimmy Fallon's late-night talk show.

As Bachmann was introduced on the show early Tuesday, house band The Roots played a snippet of a 1985 Fishbone song called "Lyn' Ass B----."

Rep. Nita Lowey, of New York, said Bachmann "deserves to be treated with respect."

"No female politician—and no woman—should be subjected to sexist and offensive innuendo like

she was last night," Lowey said.

NBC has not commented on The Roots' song choice.

The song begins with a distinctive "la la la la la la la la" refrain—the only words audible before Bachmann, smiling and waving to the audience, sat down onstage next to Fallon.

The song, about a relationship gone wrong, isn't political. Among its cleanest lyrics: "She always says she needs you, but you know she really don't care."

The Roots' bandleader, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, said later Tuesday that the song was a "tongue-in-cheek and spur-of-the-moment decision."

"The show was not aware of it, and I feel bad if her feelings were hurt," Thompson said. "That was not my intention."

Bachmann's campaign did not return messages seeking comment.

Fallon joked on Twitter that Thompson was grounded.

The Roots frequently make sly, often obscure, song choices as Fallon's guests are introduced.

When Fox Business Network's Lou Dobbs came out, they played part of Genesis' "Illegal Alien," a reference to Dobbs' frequent commentaries on illegal immigration. Current TV host Keith Olbermann, formerly of MSNBC,

heard part of Klymaxx's "I Miss You." Kathie Lee Gifford was saluted with UB40's "Red Red Wine," a reference to the drink she often shares on-air with "Today" co-host Hoda Kotb.



AP
In this image released by NBC, Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann, of Minnesota, left, points to a photo of host Jimmy Fallon, dressed as Bachmann, during a visit to "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," that aired early Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011 in New York.

Jail for woman who stole \$1M from Mark Twain House

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP)—A woman has been sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison for embezzling more than \$1 million from the Mark Twain House and Museum, a crime that added to the financial woes of the Hartford landmark that had been struggling to pay its bills.

Donna Gregor, a 54-year-old former museum employee, apologized for stealing the money at the sentencing hearing Monday in federal court in Bridgeport. Gregor faced up to 23 years in prison after pleading guilty in August to wire fraud and filing a false tax return.

The officials who run the gingerbread Gothic home said it has recovered financially and they are happy to put the case behind them.

"We are grateful that the case involving the theft of funds from the Mark Twain House and Museum has been resolved and justice has been served," the museum said on its website. "We want to assure our friends that stringent controls are in place and our financial condition is sound and we thank them for their continued interest and support."

An attorney for Gregor, Gerald Giaimo, had argued for leniency, saying his client was supporting several troubled family members including her cancer-stricken mother.

"The crime was anomalous with the type of person she is," Giaimo said. "Despite what some reports have said she was not living a life of luxury and feeding some type of shopping habit."

The thefts occurred during a time when the Twain House was in dire financial straits, trying to repay millions in bank loans from expansions and struggling to meet its yearly budget.

FIRST (1ST) YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of,

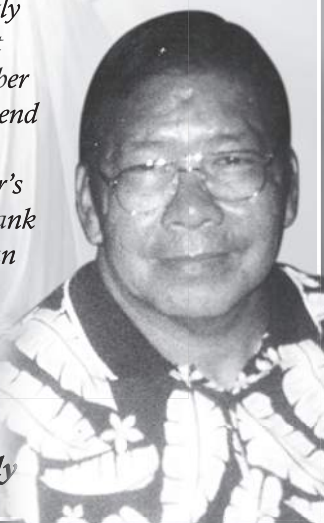
Antonio Cruz Atalig

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily mass is being offered every morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church. Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:00pm beginning November 18, 2011 (Friday) and will end on November 26, 2011 (Saturday) at his daughter's residence, Marylou and Frank Sablan (Pacho), in Chalan Kanoa, Dist # 2.

Please Join us in Prayers

The Children & Family



FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving memory of

Maria Concepcion DeLeon Guerrero

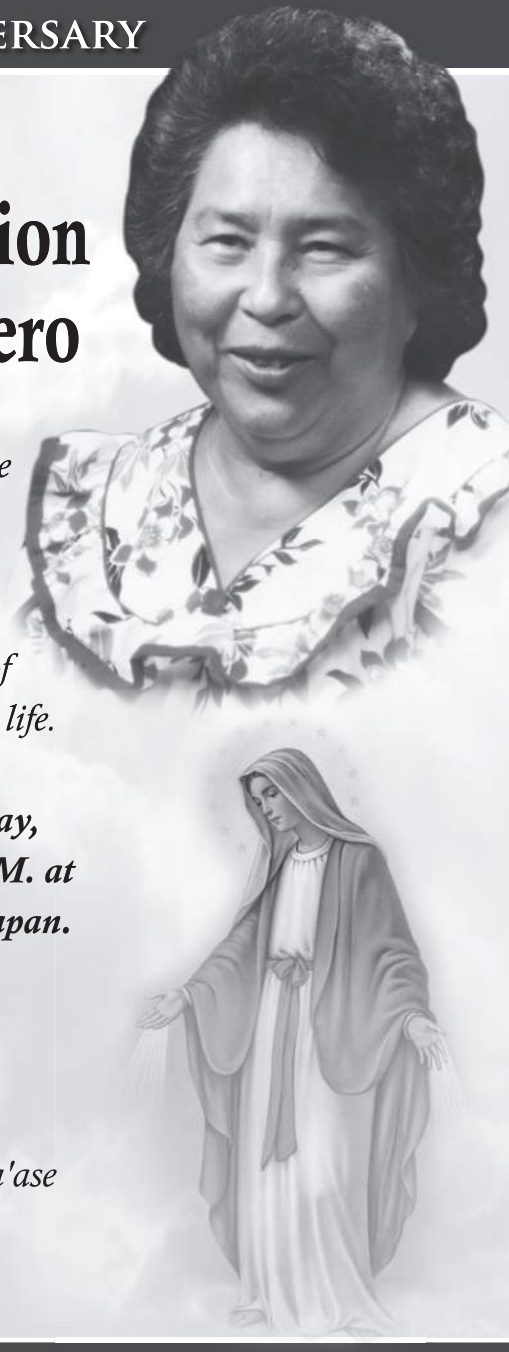
We the family humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first anniversary of the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Mass will be offered on Friday, November 25, 2011 at 6:00 A.M. at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

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The Muppets

Thursday/Thanksgiving 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40

Jason Segel, Amy Adams
Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

When an evil oil man discovers black gold beneath Muppet Theater, Kermit recruits a Muppet super-fan and his two best friends to help gather up the gang for a telethon that will save the venue from being razed and replaced with a giant oil pump. Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) never met an oil field he couldn't suck dry. So when Tex discovers a bountiful reservoir right underneath Muppet Theater, he begins drawing up plans to claim the land and start drilling. Little does Tex realize that devoted Muppets fan Walter is currently in Los Angeles with his best friends Gary (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams), and that he's not about to let one man's greed spoil a good thing for everyone. With Kermit by their side, Walter, Gary, and Mary hatch a plan to put on a big telethon that will help them raise the ten million dollars needed to keep Muppet Theater standing.



Arthur Christmas

Thursday/Thanksgiving 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45

James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie
Comedy • Rated PG



Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1

Thursday/Thanksgiving 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Happy Feet Two

Thursday/Thanksgiving 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30

Elijah Wood, Robin Williams
Children's/family • Rated PG



Immortals

Thursday/Thanksgiving 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55

Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, Freida Pinto
Epic • Rated R



Jack and Jill

Thursday/Thanksgiving 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:50

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes
Comedy • Rated PG



Tower Heist

Friday & Saturday 9:35

Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy
Crime, Comedy • Rated PG 13



Puss in Boots

Thursday/Thanksgiving 1:05 4:05 7:05

Anronio Banderas, Salma Hayek
Children's/family • Rated PG

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Obama pays tribute to country music

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama turned the White House into a country music hall on Monday, inviting an array of country stars for a concert that gave voice “to the emotions of everyday life.”

Cowboy hats and bolo ties mixed with the majestic chandeliers of the East Room for a toe-tapping series of performances by Dierks Bentley, Alison Krauss, Lyle Lovett, Kris Kristofferson, Darius Rucker, James Taylor, The Band Perry, Lauren Alaina and Micky.

“Tonight, we are turning the East Room into a bona fide country music hall,” Obama said. Only days after wrapping up a nine-day trip through Hawaii, Australia and Indonesia, the president told guests that Johnny Cash “was really singing our song when he sang, ‘I’ve been everywhere, man.’”

Obama said country music tied together many threads of the nation’s immigrant heritage, from the Irish fiddle, the

German dulcimer, the Italian mandolin, the Spanish guitar and the West African banjo. “At its most pure, that’s what country music is all about—life in America. It’s about storytelling—giving voice to the emotions of everyday life.”

Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, wearing a pink silk pantsuit, watched from the front row to a set list of country music past and present.

Bentley opened the concert by telling the audience that his thoughts were with members of the military and their families and then broke into a stirring rendition of “Home,” his current hit.

Taylor, wearing a tan Stetson hat with his blue suit, sang his 1970s hit “Riding on the Railroads,” and performed a version of Glen Campbell’s “Wichita Lineman.” Krauss performed an acoustic version of “When You Say Nothing At All,” her 1995 hit song. Lovett reprised his 1994 hit, “Funny How Time

Slips Away.”

Country star Willie Nelson’s influence loomed large over the show. Kristofferson and Rucker performed “Pancho and Lefty,” a 1983 hit by Nelson and Merle Haggard, while Alaina did a rendition of Elvis Presley’s “You Were Always on My Mind,” which Nelson turned into a Grammy winner, also in 1983.

Some of the most recognizable country standards were featured, with Alaina covering Loretta Lynn’s “Coal Miner’s Daughter,” and The Band Perry performing Dolly Parton’s “I Will Always Love You.”

Rucker, the former front man for Hootie and the Blowfish, got a shout-out from Obama—“Hootie’s in the house,” Obama told the audience—and later performed his contemporary hit, “I Got Nothin.”

By the end of the night, the entire ensemble was on stage as Kristofferson led them in an uplifting version of “Me and Bobby McGee,” the song Krist-

offerson co-wrote with Fred Foster and was later sung memorably by Janis Joplin.

Obama said the concert was a fitting tribute to the impact of country music on American life. Since first running for president, Obama said, “I’ve hopped on planes to big cities. I’ve ridden buses through small towns. And along the way, I’ve gained an appreciation for just how much country music means to so many Americans.”

In 2009, Mrs. Obama created a White House music series that has celebrated jazz, country, classical, Motown and Latin music. She has also arranged salutes to Broadway, the music of the civil rights movement and Judith Jamison, an Alvin Ailey dancer and artistic director.

“Country Music: In Performance at the White House” will be broadcast Wednesday on PBS stations and shown at a later date on the American Forces Network to military service personnel around the world.

With good vibes, Sting and Vince Gill team up

NEW YORK (AP)—If you ever see Vince Gill shirtless at one of his concerts, you can likely place the blame on Sting.

Bare-chested singing is a regular affair for the rocker, and when Gill was asked if he’d go shirtless for the pair’s CMT “Crossroads” special, Sting chimed in: “He will tonight. I’m going to encourage him.”

“What a thought. You know I haven’t eaten in six weeks preparing for this gig because of this yardstick over here,” said Gill, looking at Sting before laughing: “Going to look like Laurel and Hardy up there.”

“I’ve never been described as a yardstick. Is that a compliment?” asked Sting, joining in the laughter.

The good vibes between the two translate onstage during the special, which will air on



Sting



Gill

featured collaborations from James Taylor and the Dixie Chicks to John Mayer and Keith Urban. This one-hour concert will have Gill and Sting performing hits like “Shape of My Heart,” “Every Breath You Take” and “Don’t Let Our Love Start Slip-

pin’ Away.” While the singers—who own a combined 36 Grammy Awards—say the collaboration was a comfortable one, they admit there were some challenges, too, when it came to covering the other’s songs.

“When you immerse yourself in somebody else’s work and the more you get to know the song, you recognize these little inflections in the melody, which you

hadn’t noticed the first time,” Sting said. “It demands a lot of respect, a lot of care and attention.”

Gill knew it would be tough to cover Sting’s material, and he told the rock singer he’d need him to step in during some moments.

“I’m meat and potatoes, you know, but once I went in there and spent the time, I started to understand how it all worked,” he said. “There’s like a couple lines that I’ve tried to learn and I just said, ‘Sting, you gotta sing these ‘cause they’re so off-the-hook great I don’t want to screw them up.’”

They also said their temporary duo was drama-free.

“We haven’t had a fight yet. Not one,” said Sting.

Gill chimed in with a laugh: “If we get into a fight, I’ll choke you with heel dust (and) run away. I’m not much of a fighter.”

Just getting started: German concert turns 10

HALBERSTADT, Germany (AP)—A decade and 11 chord changes in, what’s billed as the world’s longest concert is just getting going.

The 639-year performance based on American composer John Cage’s “As slow as possible” started in September 2001—with more than a year of silence.

Visitors hoping to experience the next chord change of the organ at the former St. Burchard church in the German town of Halberstadt will have to wait until July 2012.

The board chairman of the town’s John Cage Organ Foundation, Rainer Neugebauer, says the performance fascinates people in today’s hectic society.

He says that “here you can feel something that we urgently need today—serenity.”

Neugebauer adds: “Everything does not need to happen so fast. If something needs a bit longer then it can give us an inner calm that is rare in normal life.”

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Martinez wins the 'Dancing' mirrorball

By **SANDY COHEN**
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor J. R. Martinez scored a come-from-behind victory over Rob Kardashian Tuesday to win the 13th edition of ABC television's hit competition "Dancing With the Stars."

The Iraq war veteran hoisted the mirrorball trophy with his professional partner, Karina Smirnoff.

Host Tom Bergeron called Martinez an inspiration to the audience.

The all-male finale was set up halfway through the final show when talk show host Ricki Lake was voted off, finishing third. Judges' scores combined with viewer votes determined the winner.

Judges didn't provide much extra guidance during the final competition, a samba that the dancers had to perform with little preparation time. The three judges gave both teams perfect 30 scores for their final dances.

"For one of you, that was your victory dance, but I think both of you are winners," judge Carrie Ann Inaba said. "That was a great way to end this season."

Martinez came into Tuesday's episode tied with Lake for second place. He reprised his jive routine from week two, and though he made a few mistakes, judge Len Goodman said, "You've got such a sparkling personality, you just light up this room."

Their victory brings Smirnoff her first mirrorball in 10 seasons. On Monday, she said winning would be "a perfect ending to a perfect story."

"With everything we went through ... it's like this mirrorball would justify everything," she said. "No matter what happens, I feel like it has been such a fulfilling experience overall. But the mirrorball trophy would make it that much better. It's the truth."

Tuesday's two-hour finale also included music from Lady Antebellum and appearances by this season's former contestants: TV personalities Nancy Grace

and Carson Kressley, reality star Kristin Cavallari, actors David Arquette and Elisabetta Canalis, singer Chynna Phillips, activist Chaz Bono, basketball player Metta World Peace and soccer star Hope Solo.

Kressley performed a cheeky routine to Madonna's "Vogue" that included him taking a spin with one male dancer and being dipped by another. The openly gay contestant, paired with pro dancer Ana Trebunskaya, was a fan favorite this season and has returned several times since he was eliminated from the competition to consult on fashion and bring his

sense of silliness to the show.

Phillips took advantage of a second opportunity to try a "Mission Impossible" routine that she had muffed the first time around, resulting in her elimination.

After being voted off partway through Tuesday's show, Lake said she loved every minute of her experience.

"I've done something I really didn't think I could do," said the talk show host, who lost a significant amount of weight during the competition. "For someone who's a middle aged mom, I hope I made my children proud, my fiancé and my family."



In this Nov. 21, 2011 file photo released by ABC, J.R. Martinez, left, and his partner Karina Smirnoff perform on the celebrity dance competition series "Dancing with the Stars," in Los Angeles.

Elle Macpherson's adviser: Hacking cost me my job

LONDON (AP)—Elle Macpherson fired her business adviser for leaking secrets when journalists were actually getting juicy details about the supermodel by hacking into her phone, the former aide told a British inquiry into media ethics Tuesday.

In testimony that illuminated the human costs of the illegal practice, Mary-ellen Field described how she lost both her job for Macpherson and one at an advisory firm because of the unfounded suspicions—a double-blow that was all the more serious because she was in poor health.

"It had a very serious effect," she told the inquiry. "I had become ill and was falling down all the time." She didn't identify her illness.

Field was one of several victims of press intrusion testifying Tuesday at Britain's Royal Courts of Justice. The inquiry, headed by Lord Justice Brian Leveson, was set up by Prime Minister David Cameron after the scandal over phone hacking and other underhanded tactics used at the News of the World, which was closed by media mogul Rupert Murdoch in July amid allegations of widespread criminality.

The inquiry plans to issue a report next year and could recommend major changes to the way

the media in Britain are regulated. It has already heard several alarming tales of media abuse.

Field, with a friendly and open demeanor that showed no traces of bitterness toward the press or her former boss, said her relationship with Macpherson was once close, but it fell apart after the model's intimate secrets began appearing in the press in 2005. Macpherson became convinced that Field, a fellow Australian, was an alcoholic and ordered her to go to an American rehabilitation clinic.

Field said she was shocked by the allegations she was a drunk who'd been blabbing about her employer, but went along with Macpherson's recommendation because she needed her job.

"I have a severely disabled child who can never look after himself, so walking away from a high-paying position is not a good idea," Field said.

The rehab was grueling—she described it as being "like one of those CIA renditions, except they don't put you in chains"—but it didn't help the situation.

Even though staff at the clinic said Field was not an alcoholic, Macpherson fired her anyway, and Field lost her job at her firm shortly afterward. She told the inquiry there was no doubt the sacking was the result of what happened with Macpherson.

Although it has since emerged that the media leaks were the result of phone hacking by the News of the World tabloid, not any indiscretions, Field said she has not heard from Macpherson in years. Macpherson's office did not respond to emails sent by The Associated Press seeking comment.

She was the first in a daylong parade of witnesses chronicling media misdeeds.

Soccer player Garry Flitcroft told of his family's harassment by the media after the failure of a judicial bid to block news of his extramarital affair, saying that at one point journalists used a helicopter to track his movements.

Flitcroft said journalists "wanted to make a statement to me: 'Never take on the press again.'"

Griffin O'Neal pleads guilty to DUI

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Griffin O'Neal, the son of actor Ryan O'Neal, has pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of drugs stemming from a head-on crash that injured another motorist.

The San Diego Union-Tribune (<http://bit.ly/tHTGso>) says O'Neal pleaded guilty Tuesday to driving under the influence and possession of a firearm by a felon, both felonies. He also acknowledged he has a 1992 conviction for shooting

British comedian Steve Coogan claimed in his testimony that he was warned in 2002 that Andy Coulson—then deputy editor of News of the World—would be listening in on a phone conversation Coogan had with a woman in a bid to trick him into making indiscreet comments. Coulson later went on to become Cameron's top media adviser, but he lost that job when he became embroiled in the scandal.

The parents of murdered British schoolgirl Milly Dowler and film star Hugh Grant were the first victims to testify to the panel on Monday, with Grant being particularly scathing about the Mail on Sunday tabloid, which he suggested had hacked his phone.

into an unoccupied vehicle.

Prosecutors say O'Neal was on drugs Aug. 2 when he veered into oncoming traffic and collided with another vehicle in San Diego County.

Defense attorney Heather Boxeth said at a previous hearing that her client had been trying to help his half-brother Redmond O'Neal, who had been arrested on suspicion of heroin possession the same day.

Griffin O'Neal faces up to four years in prison.

Everyday heroes perform small deeds that deserve big thanks

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: A while back you asked your readers to name their heroes. May I contribute?

My heroes are nameless, often faceless and in most cases unsung. They will never have 15 minutes of fame. Their deeds won't be recorded in history books, but their kindness inspires and their good deeds will forever affect the lives of others—though some may not realize it.

My heroes are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, foster parents, teachers, playground monitors and crossing guards who teach others to have values and common sense, and to be ethical in their treatment of others.

My heroes are young girls who spend a year grooming and conditioning their hair, then cut it off so it may be given to a child who has none; those who pick up trash along the highways and byways to keep America clean; police officers who stop you because you've done something stupid, then let you go because they know you made an honest mistake and you'll be sure not to do it again.

My heroes are the guys on the garbage truck who take a few extra seconds to pick up the items that didn't make it into the truck and make sure your receptacle is upright and undamaged before moving on to the next house; grownups who hold children's hands in parking lots to keep them safe; teachers who stay after school to help a student struggling with homework, a troubled home life or homelessness.

My heroes are strangers on streets and in buildings who take a moment to ask if they can help you because of the uncertain expression on your face; every shelter worker who has ever cried when a homeless or abused creature was euthanized; my dear father, whose strong hands, often bruised and bloodied, made a living for his family, who gently held his frightened little girl and who often shared more than he could afford with others less fortunate than he. These are my heroes.

JULIE IN SCOTT CITY, MO.

DEAR JULIE: Thank you for taking the time to describe your many heroes. On this day of all days, let us all give thanks for those individuals who have made—and continue to make—a positive difference in our lives.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!—Love, ABBY

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Louis," is retired. I'm in school studying law, which means heavy reading assignments, tons of projects and a tremendous amount of homework. It's like a full-time job.

At night when I should be studying, Louis gets upset if I don't knock off by 9 or 9:30. He also gets upset if I start before 9 in the morning. He has never asked me what I need from him to help me accomplish what I have to do. He also never asks what I'm doing in my classes without turning around and accusing me of doing the professor's job. This pattern is repeated several times a week, his blowing up because I don't spend more time with him and less on my studies.

Abby, this man insists he has never been so much in love, and that's why he wants to spend so much time with me. I think he should show his love by supporting me in challenging times. Your opinion?

ROSE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ROSE: Your boyfriend is self-centered. He's clearly less interested in your interests than in his own. Law school is challenging, even when a student doesn't have someone trying to sabotage her efforts -- which Louis appears to be doing morning and night. You have an important decision to make about your future, because your law degree is likely to last longer than your relationship with Louis, and that's what I think you should put first even if it means ending the "romance."

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Dear Abby

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Email resume only at annesong71@gmail.com

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Interested applicants must email resume and police clearance to phoenix.art.spn@gmail.com or mail to Phoenix Art, Inc at P.O.Box 502809, Saipan, MP 96950 before November 25, 2011. Phoenix Art, Inc is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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• Must have a valid CNMI driver's license
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• Must be flexible to work weekends and holidays
• Must have a valid CNMI driver's license
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Bartender (1)
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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Denver Broncos cut quarterback Kyle Orton



AP
Denver Broncos quarterbacks Kyle Orton (8) and Brady Quinn (9) stretch during football practice, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011, at Dove Valley in Englewood, Colo.



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Kyle Orton has gone from Jay Cutler's replacement to Tim Tebow's backup to the unemployment line.

The Broncos released the 29-year-old veteran quarterback Tuesday, six weeks after benching him following a 1-4 start.

"I spoke with Kyle earlier today and thanked him for everything he did for the Broncos. He was a true professional throughout this season. I've got a great deal of respect for him as both a player and as a person," coach John Fox said in a statement.

"This was the right decision for our football team. We feel good about our quarterback group, and this gives Kyle an opportunity to help another team and showcase his talents."

Orton shouldn't stay unemployed for long.

Although he's a vested veteran with seven NFL seasons under his belt, Orton is subject to the waiver rules because he was released after the trade deadline. If another team claims him, it will be responsible for about \$3 million in salary, which is what remains of his roughly \$9 million contract for 2011. If nobody claims him, he'll be free to sign with anybody.

Two intriguing possibilities are the Chicago Bears and Houston Texans. Both are in the thick of the playoff race at 7-3 but have problems under center, and another potential destination is AFC West rival Kansas City.

Cutler broke the thumb on his right throwing hand last weekend and might miss the rest of the regular season. His backup is Caleb Hanie. The Bears visit the Broncos on Dec. 11.

Matt Schaub of the Texans is out for weeks with a right foot injury and he's been replaced by previously under-achieving Matt Leinart.

Matt Cassel hurt his throwing hand in the Chiefs' 17-10 loss to Denver on Nov. 13 and had season-ending surgery the next day. His replacement, Tyler Palko, threw three interceptions in his first start, a 34-3 loss at New England

on Monday night.

John Elway, the Broncos' executive vice president of football operations, called Orton an "absolute pro," and said he decided against keeping him on the roster through the remainder of the season.

"We thought it was best for the Broncos at this time as well as for Kyle to catch on with a different team," Elway said. "Kyle is going to have more options in the NFL. He'll get an opportunity to play somewhere else, and we wish him the best of luck."

The Broncos didn't announce a corresponding roster move, but one possibility was the promotion of rookie quarterback Adam Weber from the practice squad.

Orton was acquired in 2009 in the Cutler trade with the Bears and he won his first six starts in Denver before going 6-21. He passed for 3,000-plus yards in each of his first two seasons in Denver after spending his first four seasons in Chicago.

The Broncos tried to trade Orton after the NFL lockout ended in July but talks with Miami broke down and Fox threw open the quarterback competition, something for which Tebow proved ill-prepared.

Orton decisively outplayed Tebow in training camp for a second straight season but he turned ordinary when the games started to count, turning the ball over nine times and losing a string of winnable games and the organization's confidence.

Orton's slide hit bottom Oct. 9 when he went 6 for 13 for 34 yards in the first half against the Chargers and threw his seventh interception, tied for most in the league at the time.

Fox sent in Tebow to start the second half and after a slow start, the former Florida star sparked a listless offense to within a last-gasp pass of coming back against San Diego.

"I'm disappointed with everything," Orton said at the time. "I wish I could have played better, I wish we had a better record, I wish a lot of things, but the reality is what it is."

The next day, Fox pulled Orton aside

before team meetings and informed him he had decided to go all-in on Tebow.

Orton pledged to be a good teammate and stay ready in case his number was called again, but Tebow has gone 4-1 with the Broncos tailoring their offense to his unique skill set and reintroducing the option to the NFL.

When the Broncos were walloped by the Lions in Tebow's second start, Brady Quinn leapfrogged Orton as the primary backup and appeared close to getting his shot under center. But Fox stuck with Tebow, albeit with the caveat that it was a week-to-week proposition.

Since then, Tebow has won all three of his starts and engineered fourth-quarter comebacks against the Raiders and Jets to go with his miracle in Miami, when he led the Broncos back from a 15-point deficit in the closing minutes for a win in overtime.

On Monday, Elway said on his weekly radio show, however, that he wasn't sold on Tebow as the long-term answer at quarterback, saying the second-year pro has to become a better passer and improve on third downs.

Tebow is completing just 44.8 percent of his passes and Denver was 1 for 11 on third downs last week before its game-winning, 95-yard touchdown drive that stunned the Jets 17-13.

Several teammates said Orton was anything but a cancer in the locker room in recent weeks, even though it had become obvious he was biding his time until his first foray into unfettered free agency as a healthy QB in his prime and with a .500 record as a starter.

Yet, his demotion did create some awkward moments. He kept his captainship after losing his starting job and would help lead the team during warm-ups before watching the less accurate but more mobile Tebow take the bulk of the snaps during the week.

Orton was still held in high esteem in the Broncos locker room, especially by veterans such as Champ Bailey and Andre' Goodman, who said at the time of Orton's benching that they felt he was being unfairly singled out as the reason for the team's bad start.

Jack and Jackie Harbaugh proud of coaching sons

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Jack Harbaugh has watched his sons go at it for nearly five decades.

From pounding football games on their bedroom floor to timed races up the stairs from the basement and many, many bumps and bruises in between.

That's why he sees no need to be there in person for Thursday's matchup—an NFL first—between brothers John and Jim Harbaugh when the coaches face off from opposite sidelines with their division-leading teams.

Jack and Jackie Harbaugh plan to swing by the stadium for a quick visit and photo with their sons, then go to John's house to watch the game on TV—in private.

All they want to do is allow the stage to be John and Jim's, Jack said.

The love of competition was bred into the brothers. Sons of a football coach, living room couches were rearranged so they could dive over the coffee table and use cushions for tackling practice. Coat hangers were bent to become basketball hoops and yarn transformed into homemade nets. There were hand-written scorecards and scoreboards. The brothers devised their own games and, creatively, became announcers to introduce each other before they started.

"Starting at forward for Michigan, standing 4-feet-5, wearing No. 23, Jim Harbaugh!" Jack said, recalling one of those announcements.

Come Thursday night at sold-out M&T Bank Stadium, there's no make believe about it.

Jim's resurgent 49ers are 9-1 and could clinch the NFC West with a win coupled with a loss for the Seahawks. John's Ravens are 7-3 and leading the AFC North.

"We know it's going to be emotional, we're just not sure what emotions we're going to experience," Jack said. "It's such uncharted waters. We've experienced it in this business being married for 50 years and coaching 43 years myself. And football and basketball and all the other things we've had in our family. This is such uncharted waters to see two in our family competing at this level on this stage. We've just never experienced anything like it. It's not one of those things you go into and you have anything that you can possibly measure it with or against."

This week, Jack's longtime catch phrase of "Who's got it better than us? Nobody!" seems as fitting as ever for this family.

The slogan has been a huge hit out West, where 49ers players have made their own T-shirts featuring those words.

"I'm sorry that he got to it first," said the 49-year-old John Harbaugh. "I should have thought of that before him. We should have made some T-shirts, too. I think it's really cool."

Aside from the game, there's another special moment the family will celebrate: Jack and Jackie's 50th wedding anniversary on Friday. Ev-

erything has come together in one special, whirlwind week for this sports-crazed family.

Jack and Jackie Harbaugh don't remember a single serious fight between their sons. Sure, there were arguments, like the common debate over chores—such as who had to mow the more challenging, sloping side of the lawn. If somebody had a beef with the boys, they would always team up. Each time the family moved as their father changed jobs, they left friends behind but always had each other.

And don't forget their tag-along sister, Joani.

Five years younger than Jim, she would run around in the middle as the boys threw a football during backyard battles of the keep-away game, pickle.

Joani Crean—married to Indiana basketball coach Tom Crean—will cheer them both from afar, thrilled that each earned a much-deserved path to the NFL on his own despite being the son of a successful coach.

"There are so many eyes watching this game, it's going to be nice just to get it over with, too. Move forward," said Crean, who planned to attend but is sorry she won't be able to make it because of multiple family commitments at home in Bloomington, Ind. "This is one of those moments when, whether they're a Ravens fan or a 49ers fan or a John or a Jim Harbaugh fan, they will watch this game just for the pure joy of the moment that it will be."

Crean's 12-year-old son, Riley—a middle child with a sister on each side—adores both of his uncles.

"Riley just thinks both of his uncles and his grandfather and his father hung the moon, all four of them," Crean said. "He absolutely is into what his uncles are doing, and you never hear a negative story. That's a testimony to both of them."

Jackie Harbaugh taught her children to be themselves and take accountability for their successes and failures, to go after what they wanted. She also let them experience things on their own.

Her mantra: "Don't do for your kids what they can do for themselves."

"We are excited for both of them to be at this point in their careers," Jackie Harbaugh said. "I think they're both very excited and appreciative of where they are at this point in their life. I think when it is all said and done that day, it's going to come down to the teams on the field, and that's what we're both hoping for. For me, once the practices are done and the preparations are done by both coaching staffs, it will come down to the players on the field. Besides that, which is apropos for us, it's Thanksgiving. John and Jim, Joani, Jack and I, we all have a lot to be thankful for in our lives. ... And the fact that we're going to celebrate our 50th anniversary the next day."

Milwaukee's Ryan Braun wins NL MVP



NEW YORK (AP)—Milwaukee's Ryan Braun won the NL Most Valuable Player Award on Tuesday after helping lead the Brewers to their first division title in nearly 30 years.

The left fielder received 20 of 32 first-place votes and 388 points in voting announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"I'm not going to pretend like I wasn't anxious or nervous because I was," said Braun, who was sitting on the balcony of his home in Malibu, Calif., when he received the call that he had won. "I was obviously thrilled, excited. It's honestly difficult to put into words how much this means to me."

Los Angeles center fielder Matt Kemp, who came close to winning the Triple Crown, received 10 first-place votes and finished second with 332 points. Braun's teammate Prince Fielder finished third with 229 points, and Arizona's Justin Upton finished fourth with 214 points. Fielder and Upton each received one first-place vote.

St. Louis' Albert Pujols finished fifth. It was the 11th straight year the three-time MVP was in the top 10 in balloting.

NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw was 12th in the voting a day after Detroit's Justin Verlander added the AL MVP to his Cy Young.

"I think he was the single most dominant player in baseball this year," Braun said of Verlander. "As a position player



In this Sept. 13, 2011 file photo, Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun reacts after hitting a game-winning home run during the 11th inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, in Milwaukee. Braun won the National League MVP Award in voting announced Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011.

MVP was in the top 10 in balloting.

NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw was 12th in the voting a day after Detroit's Justin Verlander added the AL MVP to his Cy Young.

"I think he was the single most dominant player in baseball this year," Braun said of Verlander. "As a position player

I'm biased to the fact that I think position players should be at the forefront of the award but if you honestly look at what he accomplished, how much he meant to that team and how dominant he truly was you cannot make any argument against him winning that award."

Braun led the NL with a .597 slugging percentage and had a

chance to overtake Jose Reyes for the batting title on the last day of the season but finished second with a .332 average. The four-time All-Star had 33 homers, 111 RBIs, 109 runs scored and stole 33 bases as Milwaukee won a franchise-best 96 games. His 77 extra-base hits was tops in the league.

Kemp led the NL in homers

with 39 and RBIs with 126 and was third in average (.324), but played for the NL West's third-place Dodgers. He also won a Gold Glove.

"Matt's one of the best players in the game. No question about it. The season he had will go down as one of the greatest in Dodgers history," said Braun, who grew up rooting for the Dodgers. "If he had won the MVP I certainly couldn't have argued with him winning. He had a phenomenal year."

While Braun and Kemp had similar statistics, Kemp was hindered by the Dodgers' 82-79 third-place finish in the NL West.

"Without a doubt I think it's a drastically different experience playing meaningful games down the stretch," Braun said.

The 28-year-old Braun is the first Brewers player to win the MVP award in the National League and first since Robin Yount won in 1989, when Milwaukee was in the AL East. Rollie Fingers (1981) and Yount in 1982 are

the other Brewers to take home MVP honors.

"Robin's the greatest player in Milwaukee Brewers history so anytime you're mentioned alongside him it's a tremendous achievement," Braun said.

Braun signed a \$105 million, five-year contract extension in April, linking him to the Brewers through 2020. He received a \$100,000 bonus for winning the MVP.

"This team has been so loyal to me. They believed in me. They drafted me. They helped to develop me and there would be nothing more meaningful to me than to eventually win a world championship in Milwaukee," he said. "It would mean a lot more to me than if I went to a large-market team, big-market-team and won two or three championships."

The 2007 NL Rookie of the Year winner rewarded the club with his fourth straight season with more than 100 RBIs. He hit a three-run, go-ahead homer in the eighth inning on Sept. 23 to clinch the division title for Milwaukee.

Ex-Penn St coach's bail could go up if new charges



HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—

Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky's status as a free man could change if more accusers surface and police file new charges, as his lawyer fears.

Sandusky, now awaiting trial on charges he sexually abused eight boys over 15 years, could then find himself with a high bail he might not be able to pay, criminal defense lawyers said Tuesday.

Sandusky was released after his Nov. 5 arrest on \$100,000 unsecured bail, meaning he didn't have to post any collateral to be freed.

His attorney, Joe Amendola, told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that he was worried there may soon be new criminal allegations against his client.

"My concern is, if they bring new charges based upon new people coming forward, that bail's going to be set and he's going to wind up in jail," said Amendola, who has not returned multiple phone messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Prosecutors "don't have to start all over," said veteran Lemoyne defense attorney Bill Costopoulos, who's not involved in the case. "The additional counts would result in another arrest, another bail

piece, another preliminary hearing date being set."

All four common pleas judges in Centre County, where Penn State is located, removed themselves from potentially presiding over the case and were replaced Tuesday by outside jurists, the Pennsylvania court system announced.

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts said in a release that the judges bowed out "to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest due to real or perceived connections" to Sandusky, the university or the charity for at-risk children Sandusky founded.

John M. Cleland, a senior judge from McKean County, was appointed to take over the case, though another judge, Kathy A. Morrow, was named to handle matters until Cleland can assume jurisdiction.

Cleland chaired the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice, established in the wake of the "kids-for-cash" courthouse scandal in which Luzerne County judges were accused of sending children to private detention centers for kickbacks.

The court system said neither Cleland nor Morrow, president judge in Perry and Juniata counties, have any known connections to Sandusky, the university or the charity.

Morrow immediately signed an order to prevent people involved in the case from disclosing the name of an individual described by his lawyers as a

victim of and witness to child sexual abuse.

The temporary order, issued at the request of two State College attorneys, instructed court officials and the parties to refer to him as "John Doe."

The Centre County clerk's office was told to seal any portion of the record that refers to him by name, and the motion seeking the order was itself sealed. Messages seeking comment from his lawyers weren't immediately returned.

Also Tuesday, Sandusky's preliminary hearing was rescheduled for Dec. 13 at the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte. It will be handled by an out-of-county jurist, Westmoreland County Senior District Judge Robert E. Scott.

Scott replaced the district judge who set bail for Sandusky, Leslie Dutchcot of State College, who had ties to The Second Mile, Sandusky's charity. The court order said the change was designed to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

If Scott has to make new decisions about bail, they would come in the context of public outrage over the allegations, which include charges that Sandusky found victims among boys being helped by The Second Mile.

"The more charges, the more serious it becomes, and of course I've heard public outcry that his bail is unsecured and it's too low," said Tunkhannock defense attorney Gerald Grimaud, who isn't involved in the case. "Any

new judge or district magistrate is not tone deaf. I'm sure they're reading things in the news media and watching things on TV like everybody else."

Until the preliminary hearing, prosecutors can seek to have bail modified by the district judge, said Lehigh County District Attorney Jim Martin. After that hearing, bail changes would have to be pursued by a county court petition, he said.

Martin said criminal complaints can also be amended before a preliminary hearing but afterward the defendant would have to be rearrested, and then the prosecution and defense would argue over whether to consolidate the two sets of charges for trial.

An attorney general's office spokesman declined to comment on the Centre County judges' recusal or about potential new charges against Sandusky.

The scandal has resulted in the ouster of Penn State President Graham Spanier and head football coach Joe Paterno and has cast a dark shadow over one of college football's most legendary programs. Athletic Director Tim Curley has been placed on leave, and Vice President Gary Schultz, who oversaw the university's police department, has stepped down.

Schultz and Curley are charged with lying to a grand jury and failing to properly report suspected abuse to authorities. Like Sandusky, they have denied the allegations.

Hunter expects court to mediate NBA lawsuit



NEW YORK (AP)—Union executive director Billy Hunter said Tuesday he expected that a Minnesota magistrate judge would

mediate the players' lawsuit against the NBA, as the court did in the NFL's labor dispute.

Hunter specifically mentioned U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, the court-appointed mediator in the NFL talks. Boylan is not the magistrate assigned to the NBA anti-trust suit, although the district judge has the discretion to appoint a different magistrate to mediate.

"What may very well be is the judge there directs the magistrate, as they did in the NFLPA case, to host a settlement conference, and that could possibly occur as early as next week," Hunter said.

One reason the players' lawyers decided to consolidate two suits against the NBA in Minnesota, he said, was that the district court there routinely uses magistrates to mediate cases.

Different groups of players filed separate lawsuits in California and Minnesota last week. On Monday, lawyers withdrew the California complaint and filed a consolidated, amended suit in Minnesota. Players attorney David Boies said at the time that the choice was made because cases move faster in Minnesota.

Hunter said Tuesday that the possibility of having a magistrate mediate also played into the decision, with the same

goal in mind: resolving the labor strife quickly.

"It makes it easier for the parties to get together when the court is involved," he said.

NBA owners locked out the players July 1, and the labor strife has forced games to be canceled through Dec. 15.

The owners had already filed a lawsuit of their own in the Southern District of New York and could file a motion to have the Minnesota case moved there.

After the two sides were unable to reach an accord, the players disbanded the union last week. That set the stage for the increasingly bitter labor dispute to move from the negotiating table to the courtroom, which could jeopardize the entire 2011-12 season.

Hunter spoke Tuesday after NBPA officials and players distributed Thanksgiving turkeys to local families outside their office in Harlem. The NBPA gave away 9,000 turkeys nationally in New York, Atlanta, Houston, Washington, Miami and New Orleans.

The Knicks' Roger Mason Jr., a member of the NBPA board, said he didn't find anything awkward about discussing the players' demands right after distributing the turkeys.

"Especially during the lockout where you have two (sides) unable to get something done and there's a lot of talk of greed—Thanksgiving season, this is a time to give back," he said, "and I just feel like it's important for all of us to do that."

SCC Golf Tournament set for Dec. 17

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The 4th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Holiday Golf Tournament is scheduled for Dec. 17 at Suwaso Corp.'s Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville.

The event is formatted as a two-person scramble and show time is set for 6am with a 7am shotgun start.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the Chamber's Educational Committee and its education and scholarship awards.

Early registration is open now for \$95 per player. Registration the day of the tournament is set at \$105 per player, all of which covers greens fees, prizes, and entrance into the awards banquet.

Award categories include men's low gross, men's low net, and women's low net. Net scores will be tallied using a double peoria format. Cash prizes of \$600 goes to each first place finisher

with \$300 for the runners-up and \$200 apiece for third place.

In addition, there are four hole-in-one prizes including a chance to win \$25,000 provided by Bank of Hawaii, a Hyundai Accent provided by Triple J Motors, and a pair of chances to win \$5,000 from Takagi & Associates and Century Insurance/AON.

Closest to the pin prizes include roundtrip tickets to Japan and the U.S. mainland courtesy of Delta Airlines. There will also be long drive challenge prizes as well.

Originally planned for October,

organizers decided to move the event closer to Christmas to complement the array of raffle prizes up for grabs at the awards banquet held after the tournament.

Founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, the Chamber is the largest private business organization in the CNMI and works to promote and protect CNMI's business, economic and civic interests, and its general health and welfare.

For more information, call 233-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Chris Concepcion and Esther Sound present Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Richard Pierce and Janice Tenorio with roundtrip tickets to the U.S. mainland and Japan to be awarded as prizes in the 4th Annual SCC Holiday Golf Tournament scheduled for Dec. 17 at Coral Ocean Point.

FIESTA

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Fiesta finished the round-robin regular season with a 7-2 record for third place in the team standings behind Mobil (7-1) and DFS Galleria, which also ended the elimination round with a 7-2 slate, but won the tiebreak with the former due to the winner-over-the-other rule.

PSS was held to only one field goal in the first 4:42 of the extension period and missed its last three attempts from downtown to finish the elimination round on a three-game losing skid. Fiesta had only two field goals in overtime, but sealed the win from the foul line, going 6-for-8, to post the longest winning streak in this season at seven.

Gus Palacios made PSS' first

basket in overtime, while Ivan Devero connected on a coast-to-coast drive and was 3-for-4 at the stripe and Bruce Berline nailed a fade-away jumper to give Fiesta an 84-78 lead, with only 40 seconds left in the extension.

Dave Sablan made it a five-point game, 84-79, when he was fouled from the 3-point area and went 1-for-3 from the foul line. Sablan then redeemed himself from the two missed foul shots when he stole Elmer Esdreton's cross court pass to Joyner and drained a triple, moving PSS within two, 82-84, 18.2 seconds to go in the match.

PSS then gave up a quick foul, but sent the wrong guy to the 15-foot line, as Esdreton calmly sank the pair, upping Fiesta's lead to four, 86-82. PSS had 16.8 seconds to either make a quick two-pointer or a triple to remain afloat and it opted for

the latter, but muffed all three attempts as time expired.

PSS lost the game despite controlling the match in the first half and in the first four minutes of the third canto. PSS was on top at halftime, 40-37, and led by as much as eight in the opening minutes of the third period before Fiesta had a 14-4 windup in the last six minutes of that canto for a 62-51 advantage.

At the start of the fourth quarter, PSS launched an 8-0 blast to get back in the game and then regained the lead, 70-69, off Kelvin Fitial's triple, 2:06 remaining in the match.

John March Ong had a split to tie the game and Devero put Fiesta back on top with his layup for the 74-70 cushion, which was sliced to one, 73-74, after Sablan connected on a triple and Devero faltered on his two free throw shots, 58.6 seconds left in

regulation.

Mendez made a baseline drive to steal the lead, but Devero answered with a daredevil layup for another lead change, 76-75, 44.4 seconds left in the fourth period.

Sablan had several chances to win the game in regulation, but split his charities and failed to draw fouls in the act of shooting on two occasions. Fiesta had two fouls left in the last 2.6 seconds of regulation and used them by fouling Sablan on the ground.

Esdreton top-scored for Fiesta with 33 points, making 15 of them in the third to lead the team's rally. Devero and Joyner finished with 12 apiece, while Ernie Moises and Berline added 10 each.

DFS 87, PIC/NVM 79

In the second game, DFS Galleria ended the elimination round on a positive note with an eight-point win over

defending champion Pacific Islands Club/NVM.

DFS had a jackrabbit start behind Pete Iguel's 22-point explosion for a 31-20 advantage.

Iguel and company kept the double-digit lead at the break, 50-40, before PIC rallied in the third period and stole the driver's seat, 64-62. PIC's defense held DFS to 12 points in the third canto and on offense the former canned three triples and drew contributions from six players to stay in the game.

However, PIC failed to keep its momentum in the fourth canto, while DFS got important baskets from Iguel, Quincy Johnson, Won Joo Jung, and Junnar Guibai in the homestretch to escape with the win.

Iguel led DFS with 34 points, while Johnson and Jack Lizama finished with 15 and 13, respectively. Peter Lizama and James Abuy paced PIC with 19 markers each.

Meanwhile, the regular season will conclude tonight with a pair of crucial games.

Shirley's (2-6) will face GPPC (2-6) in the first game at 6pm, while Grillin' (2-6) will take on Mobil in the second match at

8pm. Shirley's, GPPC, Wushin, and Grillin' are battling for the two remaining playoff spots. Wushin holds a 2-7 record and if Shirley's wins and Grillin' loses, the host will advance, while there will be a three-way deadlock for the eighth and last playoff seat with the former winning the tiebreak as it beat both GPPC and Grillin' in the regular season.

First Game

Fiesta 86 – Esdreton 33, Devero 12, Joyner 12, Moises 10, Berline 10, Ong 7, Taliana 2.

PSS/McGraw-Hill 82 – Sablan 24, Fitial 22, Villacrusis 13, Itibus 8, Palacios 4, Mendez 4, Cabrera 4, Villagomez 2, Lee 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-17, 37-40, 62-51, 76-76, 86-82.

Second Game

DFS Galleria 87 – Iguel 34, Johnson 15, Lizama 13, Barcinas 7, Guibai 2, Chavez 2.

PIC/NVM 79 – Lizama 18, Abuy 18, Barbo 14, Aquino 8, Yabut 7, Tamayo 7, Fernando 5, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-20, 50-40, 62-64, 87-79.

TADOKORO

From Page 28

first goal in the second half, while Lucita Pasana also scored in the final frame. MP United had another sluggish offense in the second half with only Mae Demapan scoring.

Shirley's FC 2, Paire 1

In the first non-competitive match of the night, Shirley's FC edged Paire.

Charlene Lizardo and Maica Aniana logged one goal apiece for Shirley's, while only Temary Gramlich scored for Paire.

Lizardo found the back of the net at the halfway mark of the

30-minute first half, while Aniana added one in the 19th minute. Paire scored its lone goal midway in the second half.

Tan Holdings 4, MHS 0

In the last game, Tan Holdings shut out MHS.

Lina Manalili and Krizelle Alforeza drilled two goals each in Tan Holdings' easy win.

Manalili avoided a scoreless first-half when she hit her first goal in the 18th minute. He picked up where she left off in the second half, making another goal in the first minute. One minute later, it was Alforeza's turn to score and the latter drained her second one in the 10th minute.

FRIDAY MP United 2 2, Tan Holdings 1

MP United 2 snapped Tan Holdings' winning run in the non-competitive division last Friday with a 2-1 victory.

Laarni Pagarao scored both goals for MP United 2, recording one apiece in the first and second half, while Shane Golin-go made one for Tan Holdings.

MHS 4, Independents 2

In the other non-competitive match last weekend, MHS shut out Independents in the second half to pull off a win.

Meena Deleon Guerrero got things going early for MHS with her goal with only 40 sec-

onds gone by in the first half. Independents' Yenthaisong Lamyuan hit an equalizer in the first minute, but MHS quickly regained the lead off Jaime Borja's goal one minute later.

Allene Evallar then canned back-to-back goals in the first half to give her team enough cushion.

Shirley's 8, Paire 0

In the lone competitive game last Friday, Shirley's pounded Paire.

Jeraldine Castillo scored four goals for Shirley's Marilou Gariguez added two, and Marielle Gariguez and Alexa Vergara chipped in one apiece.

Shirley's posted six of its total goals in the first half to seize control of the match.

Bar, JSBM, Aqua Gift Shop, Mark Michael, RUBIN, Sirena, Pacific Development Inc., Kinki Nippon Tourist Company Ltd., Department of Public Safety, and other government departments and agencies, numerous volunteers and the friendly people of Rota.

Competitors start the 18th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon in the early morning light of Nov. 12, 2012, at East Harbor, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. The event drew 130 competitors this year.

The Rota Blue Triathlon is one of the biggest tourism draws to the pristine island of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands. Rota, also known in the CNMI as the "Friendly Island," is renowned for its hospitality. (PR)

At 62, Syozo Ikeda of Japan was the oldest competitor to complete the triathlon, finishing the B-type course in 6:27:42.

18-year-old Guam native Ayn Justine Charfauros completed the team Challenge Course in 3:33:44.

Competitors were welcomed and congratulated by Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola and other dignitaries at an awards banquet was held on race day at Rota East Harbor.

The Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the CNMI, including the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon, and the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon.

The triathlon was also sponsored by Rota Resort & Country Club, Bay Breeze Restaurant &

Hidea Miyazuka in 2:24:14, and Ayato Matsuyama in 2:26:53.

Completing first in the Women's Division was Niwa with a total combined time of 2:44:23, followed in second by Akiko Murata in 2:47:37, and landing in third was Sonoko

Matsubara with a total time of 2:52:09.

The rigorous B-type Solo Triathlon featured a 2-km swim, followed by a 90-km biking course, and a 21-km run. Japan's Katsumi Kimura led all competitors in the B-type course. He was followed by Masaaki Sato in 5:05:34 and Kazuto Ito in 5:10:16.

The top finisher in the Women's Division was Toshimi Doi in 6:25:45, followed by Kaori Suzuki in 6:58:29 and Aya Yamamoto in 7:03:58.

SHIRATO

From Page 28

ager Martin Duenas. "Through the hard work of our Rota and Saipan staff, our government partners, and the private sponsors, we again showcased what makes Rota a great destination."

The event was covered also covered by Japan-based media, generating more publicity for Rota in its primary tourism market.

Japanese competitors swept all the top spots in the triathlon. In the A-type Solo Triathlon, which featured a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km biking course, and a 10-km run.

Shirato led the Men's Division with 2:12:59, followed by

Amber Halliday of Australia.

The four top bets in the women's division will be joined in next month's race by men's defending champion Joon Yong Seo of Korea, fellow returnee Konstantin Fast of Russia and newcomers and Aussie pros Matthew Wood and John Anderson.

The four men's pros will battle local bets Lewie Tenorio and Butch Sublemente and Guam's Ben Ferguson, Peter Lombard, David Spelger, Cameron O'Neil, and Derek Horton.

The century race will start and end at the southern parking lot of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio with bikers heading to Airport Road, going up to San Vicente, Talafofo, Kagman and Kingfisher, and down to Capital Hill. Riders will then head to Radar, Suicide Cliff, Grotto, Bird Island Lookout, and Banzai before returning to San Antonio via Beach Road.

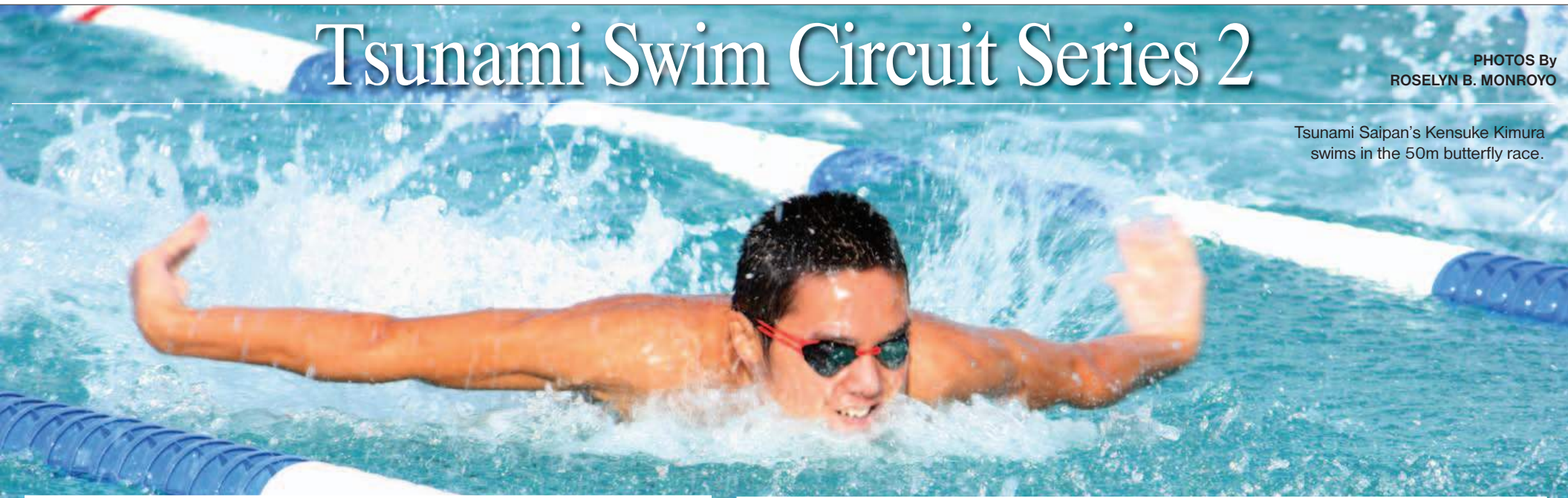
Registration deadline is only until tomorrow and bikers can join the solo, two-person, or four-person race. Check-in time is at 5:15am, while he race starts at 6:15am.

To register or for more information, contact PIC frontdesk at 237-5148.

Tsunami Swim Circuit Series 2

PHOTOS BY
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura swims in the 50m butterfly race.



Tsunami Saipan's Angel de Jesus in action during the 50m freestyle race in the Tsunami Swim Circuit Series 2 held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai is a few meters away from completing the 50m backstroke event.



A swimmer breathes during the 50m butterfly race.



Two swimmers race in the 50m breaststroke event.



Tsunami Saipan's Kyona Rivera races in the 50m freestyle event.



A U8 swimmer joins the 50m freestyle race.



A participant in the Tsunami Swim Circuit Series 2 nears the halfway mark of the 50m butterfly event.



A swimmer reappears from the water during the 50m breaststroke race.



Tsunami Saipan's Daima Rivera competes in the 50m breaststroke race.

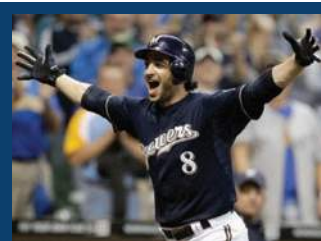


**Denver
Broncos cut
quarterback
Kyle Orton**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Milwaukee's
Ryan Braun
wins NL
MVP**



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28 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fiesta outlasts PSS in overtime

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Ivan Devero is triple-teamed by PSS/McGraw-Hill defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan completed a sweep of its last seven games after surviving PSS/McGraw-Hill in overtime, 86-82, during the curtain raiser in the 3rd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

See FIESTA on Page 26

Tadokoro lifts Matansa in win over MP United

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Manami Tadokoro scored four goals to power MP United to a 6-2 triumph over MP United 1 in the non-competitive division of the 2011 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League last Monday at the Saipan Soccer School pitch.

Tadokoro made two of her goals in the first half, which ended with Matansa ahead, 2-1. MP United 1 drew its lone goal in the first half from Lydia Tan, who lit up the scoreboard in the eighth minute. Tadokoro nailed her first goal under the one-minute mark of the first half and added one more in the 18th minute.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matansa keeper Noi Norey goes for a save during their game in the opening week of the NMIFA women's futsal league at the Saipan Soccer School pitch.

The Matansa striker was still at it in the second half with her goals in the third and 11th minute. Becky Robles recorded Matansa's

See TADOKORO on Page 26

Shirato returns to top 18th Rota Blue

The Rota Blue Triathlon was held on Nov. 13, 2011, with 130 competitors taking on the challenge and last year's second place finisher Taro Shirato of Japan rising to the top this year for the win. Niwa Nahoko of Japan finished first for the women and seventh overall.



Shirato

The annual signature event of Marianas Visitors Authority was co-sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office and the Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan, which was instrumental in attracting 116 Japanese athletes to the event this year.

Twelve competitors from Guam and two from Rota rounded out the pack.

"Once again, the community of Rota rolled out the red carpet to welcome our visiting athletes, and the 18th Rota Blue was another success," said MVA Community Projects man-

See SHIRATO on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko Carey leads a group bikers heading to Koblerville during last year's Hell of Marianas.

3 pros to challenge Mieko in 'Hell'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan's Mieko Carey will defend her women's division crown in next month's 5th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race against three pros. Carey was the first female finisher of last year's 100-kilo-

meter race around the island after timing in at three hours, 22 minutes, and 5.34 seconds and

will be racing against Australia's Jodie Willett, Korea's Chan Hee Hwang, and Russia's Natalia Zakharva on Dec. 3

The 34-year-old Willett is a member of the Flight Centre

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